Government of Saskatchewan

# Annual Report 2002-03

## Saskatchewan Environment

Saskatchewan
Our Future is Wide Open

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Visit our web site at **www.se.gov.sk.ca**

Saskatchewan Environment welcomes your comments and questions. We can be contacted by email: inquiry@serm.gov.sk.ca, phone: 306-787-2700 (Regina), 1-800-567-4224 (toll free) or mail: 3211 Albert Street, REGINA SK S4S 5W6

# Letters of Transmittal

July 2003

Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of Saskatchewan Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Buckley Belanger
Minister

The Honourable Buckley Belanger
Minister of Environment

Dear Sir:

I respectfully submit to you the Annual Report for the Department of Environment for the year ending March 31, 2003.

The quality of our natural environment is a key element in maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Environment staff work to ensure the province has clean air, land and water where pristine forests, rolling prairies and living skies provide wildlife habitat, support a healthy population and nourish the human spirit. This Annual Report describes what was done during 2002-03 to ensure a healthy environment for generations to come while our 2003-04 Performance Plan outlines our plan for the activities in that year. The report also identifies trends and issues and how Saskatchewan Environment manages its fiscal responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Stonehouse
Deputy Minister

# Who We Are

Saskatchewan Environment became the name of the department on April 1, 2002 when the department assumed responsibility for urban parks and transferred economic development in the forestry sector to Saskatchewan Industry and Resources. Prior to that time, the department was called Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM). SERM was formed in 1993 when the environment component of Environment and Public Safety was amalgamated with the Department of Natural Resources.

Saskatchewan Environment uses the following **vision** to guide its planning and actions: A high quality environment and healthy ecosystems in perpetuity which sustain social, health and economic well-being for Saskatchewan citizens.

Our **mandate** - Saskatchewan Environment carries the provincial responsibility to manage, enhance, and protect Saskatchewan's natural and environmental resources for conservation, social, economic, and recreation purposes, and to ensure they are sustained for future generations.

The department promotes stewardship of the air, land, water and wild plants and animals that are the foundation of a clean and healthy environment and a prosperous society. Saskatchewan Environment seeks to apply sustainable land use planning and resource management principles to Crown lands, including provincial parks, and renewable resources under its administration. Over half the province consists of Crown lands under administration by the department, principally in northern Saskatchewan. Environmental legislation such as *The Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, administered by Saskatchewan Environment, are major tools for ensuring sustainable development and effective pollution prevention and management throughout the province.

Saskatchewan Environment also recognizes that effective environmental stewardship requires good relations with stakeholders and the public. EnvironmentThe department uses processes of co-management, partnership and public involvement to ensure that decisions on environmental issues are well informed by a wide range of community, economic and individual concerns.

**Benefits**
The quality of the environment, the strength of the economy and the health of Saskatchewan people are dependent on each other. The department works to protect and manage our province's natural environment and its contribution to the standard of living and quality of life of Saskatchewan's residents:

**Health** - clean water to drink, clean air to breathe and clean, healthy land to support us.

**Economy** - renewable resources (forestry, wildlife, fisheries, etc.) and environmental industries provide employment to thousands of Saskatchewan citizens and contribute more than a billion dollars a year to our economy:

- New forestry initiatives in northern Saskatchewan will create thousands of jobs by the year 2005 and expand business opportunities
- The private sector of the Saskatchewan environmental industry contributes $252 million to the provincial economy.
- The department's approach to ecosystem management creates opportunities for natural resource-based industries (forestry, hunting, fishing, outfitting, etc.).
- Our efforts also support sustainable development in agricultural, mining, oil and gas, energy, and manufacturing sectors, which contribute over $9 billion to the provincial economy.

**Society** - The health and beauty of Saskatchewan's natural environment contribute to our physical and mental well-being. Our province's history and economy are intimately linked to the land and nature.

**Principles**
SE carries out its mandated responsibilities using the following principles:

- **Ecosystem approach**
  Ecosystems consist of communities of humans, animals, plants, and micro-organisms, interacting with each other and with the non-living elements of their environment. Environmental protection and resource management should be based on an ecosystem approach, recognizing that all components in an ecosystem are closely linked and cannot be managed in isolation from one another. Sustainable development approaches should simultaneously consider impacts on each environmental medium (air, land and water) to avoid the transfer of risk from one environmental medium to another.

- **Prevention**
  Sustainable development approaches should emphasize the principle that it is better to "anticipate and prevent" environmental and resource degradation rather than "react and cure" the problem once it has occurred.
- **Risk Assessment**
  SE will first assess the risk an environmental or natural renewable resource management issue could have on human health, the integrity and health of the ecosystem, and socio-economic impacts, before taking action and or allocating resources to address the issue.
- **Precaution**
  When faced with uncertainty about whether a negative environmental impact will occur, it is preferable to take a precautionary approach that preserves the environmental status quo, especially if the cost of the impact would be high.
- **Shared Responsibility**
  Sustainable development approaches require the commitment and participation of all parties, including First Nations and Métis, industry, governments, education institutions, non-government organizations and the public. Cooperation of these sectors will foster a smoother transition to sustainability than would independent action. A listing of our primary partners and stakeholders can be found in Appendix B of this document.
- **Integration**
  The environment cannot be dealt with in isolation. It must be protected and managed in a systematic way by being fully-integrated into all aspects of the economy and society, including business, government and individual decision-making. Communication is fundamental to encouraging integrated environmental and resource use decisions, to improving the efficient and effective operation of the department, and to maintaining positive relations with stakeholders and the public. Communication by SE staff is characterized by open dialogue that is accurate, clear, and consistent.
- **Stewardship**
  Sustainable development approaches should be considered for their long-term benefits. Up front costs should not be viewed as unrecoverable expenses but as investments with a clear pay-back over the long-term. We should also recognize that our world and its resources are not solely the possession of our generation. We must consider the needs of future generations and leave them an undamaged or improved environment.
- **Full Information on Costs**
  The price we pay for goods and services generally does not include "externalities" such as the environmental damage or costs associated with their production and use. Information about environmental costs should be made available so that sound decisions can be made in the marketplace.

## Organization and Programs

(see Appendix B for the department's Organizational Chart)

On average, the department had 857 full-time, 71 part-time, 80 casual/term and 466 labour service staff in 2002-03. We maintain offices in 52 communities throughout the province.

Operations Division is the program delivery arm of the department, providing regional planning and delivery of the department's programs and services. Operations Division comprises three branches - Enforcement and Compliance, Fire Management and Forest Protection (FMFP) and Regional Services - and five EcoRegions (i.e., Grassland, Parkland, East Boreal, West Boreal and Shield) that deliver department programs. The EcoRegion structure enables Environment to deliver integrated resource management and environmental protection programs while tailoring activities to meet the unique needs of the region.

Programs Division develops and coordinates the planning, implementation and evaluation of environmental and resource management policies, programs and legislation. Programs Division is made up of the following branches: Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife, Forest Ecosystems, Parks and Special Places and Sustainable Land Management.

Policy and Assessment Division integrates and coordinates key functions, policies and activities across the department, including: strategic planning, policy and legislative processes; public

involvement and Aboriginal liaison policies and processes; environmental impact assessment; and ecosystem-based management planning. The Division includes Environmental Assessment, Policy and Legislation and Public Involvement and Aboriginal Affairs.

Corporate Services Division provides strategic and operational financial, human resources and information management support to the department. There are six Service Bureaus: Regina, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon and La Ronge. Service Bureaus provide operational support to the entire department in: human resources, financial and property management services, general administration and program support, as well as other functions associated with central government agencies, e.g., Finance, Public Service Commission. The Corporate Development Unit is responsible for developing strategic plans and policies related to corporate-level planning, finances, organizational development and human resource work. The Information Management Branch provides information management services and information technology maintenance and development services. The Financial Management Systems Unit process expenditures and revenues and provide financial management to the department.

Communication Services Branch delivers strategic communications to: encourage environmental stewardship, reduce risks to public health from the environment, increase participation in department programs, facilitate information exchange within the department, and facilitate public and stakeholder input in the development of policies and programs and coordinate department communications with other government organizations.

## Reorganized Water Management

The Saskatchewan government reorganized water management responsibilities to clarify and streamline the roles of relevant agencies. *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act* and *The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act* were proclaimed on October 1, 2002 to implement the government's water program reorganization:

- **Saskatchewan Environment** has a more complete regulatory role covering both the construction and operation of water and wastewater works. In July 2002 the department established a new Drinking Water Quality section to manage monitoring and compliance with drinking water and wastewater legislation and enforcement. SaskWater's regulatory program for municipalities has been transferred to Saskatchewan Environment. During 2002-03 the department developed a new waterworks inspection protocol, a revised bacteriological follow-up protocol and several new guidelines for the design, management and operation of waterworks and sewage works. Saskatchewan Environment also developed a training protocol for staff inspecting waterworks and effective December, 2002 - all inspection staff must receive training.
- **The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority** is a new Crown corporation reporting to the Deputy Minister of Environment. It consolidates the watershed management responsibilities formerly held by Sask Water, Saskatchewan Environment and the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation. It is developing new approaches to address water use and protection concerns through watershed and aquifer planning that focuses on the creation of stakeholder or stewardship groups so both water resource and related ecological interests are represented.
- **SaskWater's** mandate as a Treasury Board Crown Corporation is now focused on solutions for rural and urban communities with water-related problems.

## Saskatchewan Environment's Partners (partial listing)

The organizations listed below are some of the department's key partners in achieving planned key results. The nature of the relationship varies; in some instances Saskatchewan Environment provides funding assistance to support mutual goals, in others department staff participates in discussions on concerns with the organizations and work with them to ensure sustainable use of natural resources. A more comprehensive list of the department's stakeholders and partners can be found in Appendix C.

**Association of Saskatchewan Urban Park and Conservation Agencies** is a voluntary consortium of urban conservation and development agencies dedicated to the sustained betterment of Saskatchewan's urban ecosystems.

**Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre** provides national operational fire-control services and coordination for all of the provinces and territories.

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Saskatchewan** works to protect boreal forest and grassland wilderness in Saskatchewan, e.g. establishing new protected areas, improving the management of existing parks and other protected areas, and legislative and policy reform.

**Ducks Unlimited Canada** is a habitat conservation organization, conserving wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

**Environment Canada** is the federal government department with the mandate to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural environment and renewable resources.

**Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations** (FSIN) is an umbrella organization representing First Nations in Saskatchewan.

**Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS)** is an umbrella organization representing Saskatchewan Metis.

**Nature Conservancy of Canada** (Saskatchewan Division) works to protect threatened natural habitats and the endangered species that call them home through purchase, donations and conservation easements.

**Nature Saskatchewan** promotes appreciation of our natural environment through education, conservation and research, to protect and preserve natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** is a conservation organization that supports habitat enhancement, wildlife management and conservation education.

**Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC)** is the provincial association representing community-based organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities. Its recycling division - SARCAN - operates a province-wide beverage container collection system for containers designated under *The Litter Control Act*.

**Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)** represents rural municipal government in Saskatchewan.

**Saskatchewan Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative Federation Ltd.** works to enhance the province's commercial fisheries.

**Saskatchewan Eco-Network** is an umbrella organization of Saskatchewan "ENGOs" - non-profit, non-governmental organizations that are concerned with environmental issues.

**Saskatchewan Forestry Association's** mission is to increase public awareness and stimulate interest in the wise use, protection and management of the forests and the related resources of land, water and wildlife of Saskatchewan.

**Saskatchewan Outfitters Association** is a business organization whose membership consists of hunting and fishing outfitters in Saskatchewan.

**Saskatchewan Petroleum Industry/Government Environmental Committee** is an industry government partnership to jointly manage environmental issues associated with continued growth of the oil and gas industry in Saskatchewan.

**Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association** is a governing body working to achieve the fullest potential of Saskatchewan's regional parks system.

**Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation** operates the Scrap Tire Management program. All tire retailers in Saskatchewan are required to participate in the program to collect and recycle scrap tires.

**Saskatchewan Trappers Association** represents Saskatchewan trappers and is dedicated to the wise use and enhancement of the fur resource.

**Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council** promotes waste reduction through consultation, communication, education and related support services.

**Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association** offers operator training and education for people involved in the operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of water and wastewater systems, and their related components.

**Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation** fosters sound management and wise use of Saskatchewan's renewable resources, promotes habitat protection, responsible hunting and fishing and encourages enforcement of game laws.

# Our 2002-03 Annual Report

The 2001-02 Annual Report contained information on the department's 2002-03 Performance Plan. This year's Annual Report outlines the department's progress and results for the 2002-03 fiscal year and sets out the department's plans for 2003-04 and beyond. The 2002-03 Annual Report serves two functions:

- reports on our results, in context of our 2002-03 Performance Plan; and
- sets out our updated plan for 2003-04 and beyond

The 2000-01 Budget Address announced that Government would be fully implementing a new accountability framework "...giving Saskatchewan people solid reference points by which to judge the performance of their Government". The continuing improvements occurring in our Annual Report are tied to the on-going implementation of this broader initiative.

We believe that reporting progress against our previously released plan increases our accountability to the people we serve and enables them to better assess our performance. Future Annual Reports will continue Government's initiative to provide more and better information to the public.

# 2002-03 Fiscal Year Results

# Overview of the 2002-03 Performance Plan

This section provides the reader with an overview of the department's 2002-03 Performance Plan.

**Vision** - a high quality environment with healthy ecosystems in perpetuity which sustain social, health and economic well-being for Saskatchewan citizens.

| Goal | Objectives |
|---|---|
| 1 A Clean and Healthy Environment | 1. Clean Water<br>1.1 Safe municipal drinking water<br>1.2 Good quality surface and ground water<br>2. Clean air<br>3. Clean land<br>4. Minimize risk and adverse impact of wildland fires on people, property and natural resources |
| 2 Ecosystem Health and Natural Abundance of Renewable Resources | 5. Species and habitat at risk are protected<br>6. Biodiversity and ecosystems are sustained |
| 3 Fair Opportunity for Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources | 7. Equitable allocation of natural renewable resources<br>8. Accessible recreational and educational opportunities on provincial park and Crown resource lands<br>9. Increased economic benefits based on sustainable use of natural renewable resources<br>10. First Nations and Metis rights and their interests in the use of natural resources are met through cooperative means. |

# Results at a Glance

This section provides readers with an overview of Saskatchewan Environment's performance results and expenditures. The following text box outlines some of the department's key accomplishments in 2002-03:

## Key Accomplishments

**Goal 1: A Clean and Healthy Environment**

- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* was proclaimed in force on October 1, 2002 to allow the Saskatchewan government to better manage and protect our environment.
- A Water Quality Index for aquatic life and contact recreation uses was developed and will be applied to measure water quality in major Saskatchewan rivers and lakes.
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has been established to protect and manage the surface and ground water resources of the province.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Alberta to develop and implement a bilateral acid rain management framework to address acid rain deposition in the province.
- Three out of the six highly contaminated sites have been cleaned up; work is progressing on the remaining three sites.
- New Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management facilities were established with funding from the provincial Centenary Fund.
- Fire Management and Forest Protection staff battled a large number of forest fires and escaped fires resulting from extremely dry conditions in 2002-03; 698,000 hectares of forest burned in the full response zone (ten year average is 167,000 hectares).

**Goal 2. Ecosystem Health and Abundance of Renewable Resources**

- The Representative Area Network increased from 5,400,000 to 5,750,000 hectares.
- Approximately 130,000 hectares of Crown land in the Prairie Ecozone were analyzed for species at risk.

**Goal 3. Fair Opportunity for Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources**

- The department conducted surveys to inventory Saskatchewan's wildlife populations. These inventories are important to ensure the sustainability of harvested game species.
- Capital upgrading of provincial park facilities in Lac La Ronge, Moose Mountain, Cypress Hills, Danielson, Greenwater Lake, Meadow Lake, Rowan's Ravine, Saskatchewan Landing, Duck Mountain, Buffalo Pound, Echo Valley, Pike Lake, Makwa Lake, Meadow Lake provincial parks and Chitek Lake Recreation Site.
- Saskatchewan Forestry Centre established research capabilities and hired additional staff.
- Assessment of fish stocks using the new hydroacoustic system was completed for Candle and Jan Lakes. Assessments are important for all commercial fisheries sustainability.
- An inventory of forest lands in Saskatchewan's northwest was completed.
- The department has continued to emphasize and enter into co-operative and partnership arrangements/relationships with Aboriginal organizations including: services contracts with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Metis Nation - Saskatchewan and new partnerships with Treaty 4 Governance, Nekaneet First Nation and Yellowquill First Nation.

The department's total expenditures in 2002-03 were $180.3 million. The total variance between actual and budgeted expenditures was $176,000. Variances and a break-down of the major categories of expenses are explained in detail in the 2002-03 Financial Overview section on pages 35 and 36.

Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for four funds: the Commercial Revolving Fund, Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund, Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Forest Fire Contingency Fund. Explanations and financial statements of these funds are found in the Financial Overview section.

Additional financial information can be obtained by calling the department's Inquiry Centre at 787-2700 (in Regina) or 1-800-567-4224 (outside Regina).

# 2002-2003 Performance Results

This section provides readers with detailed information on the progress that Saskatchewan Environment has made on the performance measures and key actions identified in the department's 2002-03 Performance Plan.

# Goal 1 - A Clean and Healthy Environment

## Objective 1 - Clean Water

### Objective 1.1 Safe Municipal Drinking Water

### Objective 1.2 Good Quality Surface and Ground Water

The health and safety of Saskatchewan citizens depends, in part, on drinking water that is free from dangerous contaminants. Surface and ground waters are the main sources for municipal drinking water and other human uses - recreation, agriculture and industrial purposes and for fish and wildlife. It is important that source waters do not contain levels of chemical, biological and physical contaminants that make them unfit for these purposes or that increase the need for expensive municipal drinking water treatment.

Overall the department made good progress in advancing this objective. Drinking water (treated for municipal systems) is generally in good condition and improving, but further enhancements are required and planned. The department's new Drinking Water Quality section, new water regulations and water works inspection protocol help ensure safe drinking water. A bigger challenge is domestic water supplies to rural residents, where a great variety of problems associated with ground- and surface water quality must be addressed. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was created (*The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act* was proclaimed on Oct. 1, 2002) to develop new approaches to address water use and protection concerns. Water quality in the three major watersheds monitored by Saskatchewan Environment is generally rated "fair" to "good."

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| As part of the North Battleford Inquiry recommendations, implement revised water pollution and water works regulations and establish a Drinking Water Quality Unit in the department. | • The government launched the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy (LTSDWS) in April 2002. A description of the LTSDWS can be found in the department's web site (http://www.se.gov.sk.ca). Substantive reporting on 2002-03 results can be found in the State of Drinking Water Quality Report (also available at the web site mentioned above).<br>• Saskatchewan Environment established and staffed a Drinking Water Quality Section devoted to water and wastewater management activities; 788 required inspections were conducted on regulated water works (up from 550 in 2001-02).<br>• Guidelines and standards were developed to aid waterworks owners/operators to implement regulatory changes. |
| Publish an annual drinking water compliance report. | A 2001-02 Drinking Water Compliance Report was published in March 2003 per *The Environmental Protection Act, 2002* requirement to prepare annual reports on drinking water quality. |
| Implement an enhanced bacteriological notification and follow-up protocol complemented by a quarterly monitoring and response program for drinking water quality exceedances. | The Bacteriological Notification and Follow-up protocol review was completed in 2002-2003; implementation began in February 2003. A quarterly monitoring and response protocol was developed and implemented in 2002-03. |
| Expand monitoring of surface and groundwater resources in the province. | • Surface and groundwater monitoring programs were evaluated and reconciled. The recreational lake monitoring program was expanded and major river systems continue to be monitored.<br>• In 2003 the department began sampling (minimum of four times/year) at 18 new sites to collect data for trend analysis and application of the Saskatchewan Water Quality Index. *(continued)* |

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| | • an ongoing (30 lake) monitoring program tracks changes in pH and "acid neutralization" capacity in northern watersheds. |
| Develop a Water Quality Index to evaluate the quality of surface water for multiple uses. | A water quality index for aquatic life and contact recreation uses was developed and applied on selected water bodies in three watersheds (the Qu'Appelle, South Saskatchewan and North Saskatchewan Rivers). |
| Ensure monitoring of effluent quality from Environment regulated point sources. | The department:<br>• issued permits for point source emissions from industries and municipalities;<br>• reviewed analytical data;<br>• performed compliance inspections at wastewater treatment plants; and<br>• began work to assess the risks and potential impact of wastewater discharges.<br><br>New Water Regulations introduced in December 2002 made minimum treatment a legal requirement. |

**Measurement Results**

number of people served with municipal drinking water meeting provincial minimum treatment requirements.

Approximately 815,600 people are served by municipal drinking water systems regulated by Saskatchewan Environment. In 2001 (baseline), 813,900 people (or 99.79 per cent) received municipal drinking water that met the provincial minimum treatment requirements[1]. The 2002-03 figure 812,068 (or 99.56 per cent) - shows a slight decrease. While treatment inadequacies were resolved in five communities, increased inspection identified other communities that did not meet minimum treatment standards. A compliance and enforcement protocol has been implemented to help bring resolution to water treatment inadequacies.

[1] *These baseline figures are different than those published for this objective last year (i.e., Saskatchewan Environment's 2001-02 Annual Report). We regret that last year's values were incorrect. The error has been corrected; performance measure data is based on Saskatchewan Health population statistics for 2001.*

## Objective 2 - Clean Air

Clean air is essential for good health. Many factors affecting air quality are outside the department's control, such as wind, smoke from forest fires or industrial emissions from other jurisdictions. Saskatchewan Environment monitors air quality and works with other jurisdictions when necessary to ensure clean air.

Overall the department made good progress in advancing this objective. Due in large part to a low density population and a moderate level of industrial activity, Saskatchewan's air quality is good (with a few regional or local exceptions). Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Saskatchewan have risen as a result of increased economic activities - it is predicted that by 2020, Saskatchewan's GHG emissions will, if left unchecked, increase 45 per cent from 1990 levels. Also while our province does not now have a general acid rain deposition problem, Alberta's rapidly growing oil sands development may impact lakes in Saskatchewan's northwest.

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Review compliance and implement compliance plans and schedules for regulated air emission systems. | Saskatchewan Environment conducted a risk assessment on all air stressors to the environment during 2002-03 which determined that particulate matter, mercury and acid deposition posed the greatest risks to Saskatchewan ecosystems. The department addresses these issues via the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) and its Canada-wide standards activities. The department developed a risk management approach to determine which industries should be subject to permit. Saskatchewan Environment's strategy now focuses permits on the 40 per cent of emitters where there are more significant risks to the environment if permits are not regularly reviewed, updated and monitored. In 2002-03 department staff prepared informal compliance plans and schedules for non-compliant permittees as part of Saskatchewan Environment's routine enforcement measures. |
| Develop and implement a bilateral acid rain management framework between Saskatchewan and Alberta. | Initial modeling work indicates that some lakes in north-western Saskatchewan are susceptible to acid deposition originating primarily from Alberta's tar sands area. Similarly, the Great Sandhills ecosystem may be at risk from acidifying emissions from the Calgary-Edmonton corridor. In 2002 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Alberta to develop and implement a bilateral acid rain management framework to address acid deposition. As part of that cooperative approach with Alberta, the department regularly reviews and comments on environmental impact assessments conducted in Alberta. Ten assessments for tar sands/heavy oil projects in northeastern Alberta were reviewed in 2002-03. |
| Continue to cooperate with neighbouring governments to monitor air quality in the southeast part of the province. | • Saskatchewan Environment worked with Environment Canada and other provinces/territories and US jurisdictions to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize rules and responsibilities for air pollution monitoring networks.<br>• The National Air Pollution Surveillance Program (NAPS) will be expanding to include Swift Current and Prince Albert in addition to Regina and Saskatoon.<br>• Saskatchewan Environment partnered with Environment Canada, SaskPower and North Dakota to monitor sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter at Boundary Dam, the City of Estevan, Rafferty Dam and two sites in North Dakota. Results to date indicate no exceedances of provincial ambient air quality objectives. |

**Measurement Results**

ambient air quality

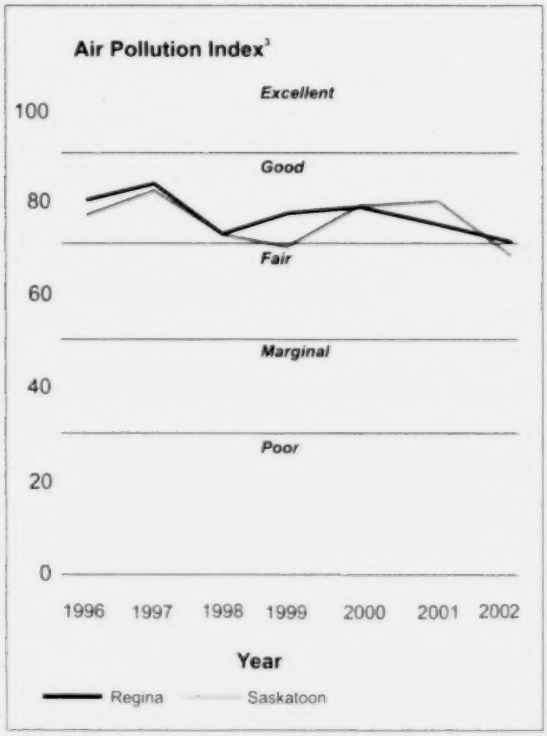
In 1996 there was one exceedance in both Regina and Saskatoon; in 1998 there were two exceedances in both Regina and Saskatoon; in 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 there were no exceedances[2]. Please note - exceedances are a snapshot in time of the level of any one of a number of air pollutants (e.g. suspended particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide). It is not a meaningful indicator of the threat to human health because it doesn't indicate the risk (magnitude and extent) associated with a particular level nor does it take into account the cummulative impact of pollutants. A more meaningful indicator - the Air Quality Index - for both Regina and Saskatoon showed a "good" to "excellent" rating more than 99 per cent of the time.

| Descriptor | Numerical Values | Effects |
|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 100 - 85 | No known risk to human health |
| Good | 84 70 | Negligible risk to human health |
| Fair | 69 - 55 | Potentially unhealthy for some sensitive groups of individuals (children, seniors, those with heart and lung disease are at greater risk) |
| Marginal | 54 - 35 | Air pollution is associated with harmful effects ranging from minor irritations of the throat, to worsening of asthma and other lung conditions. |
| Poor | 34 - 0 | Possibility of severe conditions including increased mortality |

In 2002 Saskatchewan Environment converted the Air Quality Index to a more informative Air Pollution Index (API) an overall pollution index that ties in the likelihood of experiencing harmful health effects to provide the public with information they need to take appropriate action to protect themselves from the adverse effects of air pollution. In the adjacent chart Air Quality Index figures have been translated to equivalent Air Pollution Index values.

Air pollution levels are influenced by a number of factors including natural sources such as dust or smoke, weather patterns and the intensity of industrial development and human activity.

Saskatchewan Environment has regulatory/permit control over air emissions from provincial sources only.




*Data sources are National Air Pollution Stations (NAPS), one of which is located in Regina and one in Saskatoon.*

*Data received from Saskatchewan Environment's Environmental Protection Branch staff.*

## Objective 3 - Clean Land

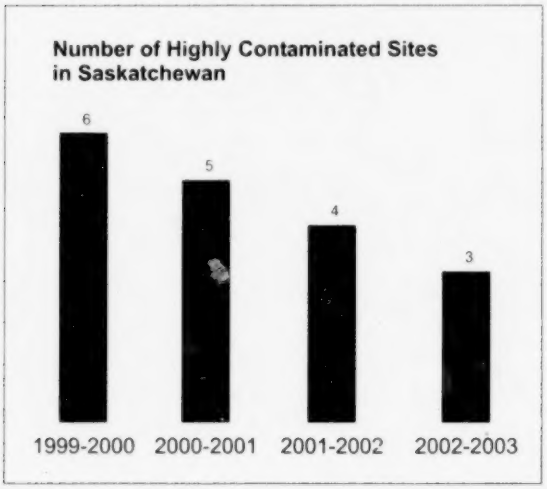
Clean land is very important to human health. Contaminated land may contribute to pollutants entering water and air and harmful substances in the soil can enter the food chain (or also be absorbed directly by humans), affecting the health of many life forms.

Overall the department made good progress in advancing this objective. Improved practices in municipal regional waste management and recycling programs all contributed to clean and healthy land. Departmental work to improve environmental databases and assessment practices is, however, a long-term process. Considerable progress was made in cleaning up contamination at a number of sites with financial resources from the Centenary Fund.

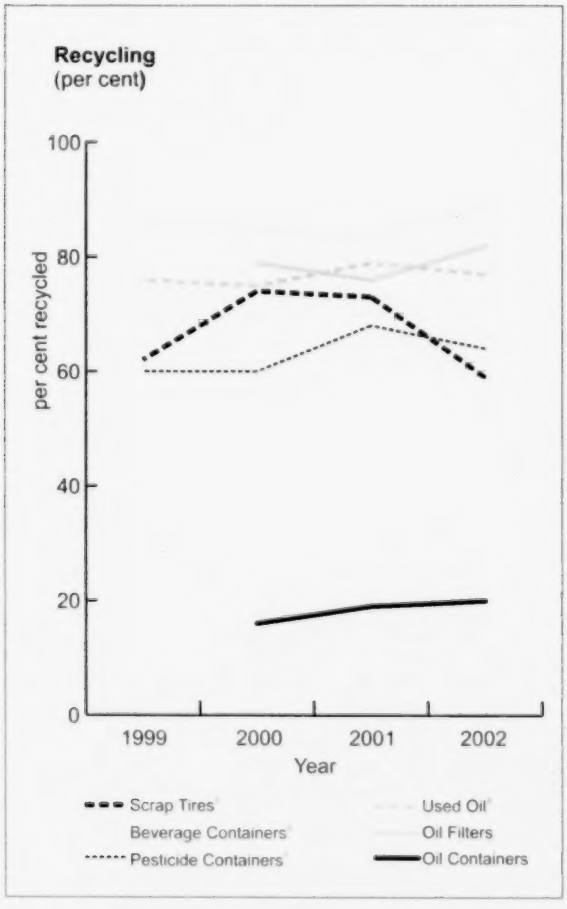
| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Ensure compliance with regulated stewardship programs (beverage containers, scrap tires and used oil). | • Saskatchewan Environment joined the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Waste Minimization Forum and Environment Minister Belanger declared Oct 21 - 27, 2002 as Waste Reduction Week in Saskatchewan.<br>• In 2002-03, the department ensured compliance by continuing to regulate third party waste minimization programs. Thanks to past compliance efforts and third party education programs, regulatory requirements are typically met. |
| Clean up of known high risk contaminated sites in accordance with the Centenary Fund action plan. | • Three high risk contaminated sites (i.e., Shragge Steel, IPCO Chemicals, NWR Salvage) have been completely remediated; work at the Woodland Campus site in Prince Albert is approximately 80 per cent complete. Clean up is expected to be completed by March 31, 2004 at the Inland Steel site in Saskatoon and the Northern Petroleum Refinery site in Kamsack. |
| Continue inventory and conduct risk assessment of contaminated sites, including abandoned mines, and develop clean-up strategies for high-risk contaminated sites. | • In cooperation with Northern Affairs, Saskatchewan Environment utilized the province's Centenary Fund to start an assessment of 75 abandoned mines in northern Saskatchewan. The aim is to identify and rank any public health/safety and potential impacts that the former mines might have on the environment. The assessment component is expected to be completed in the fall of 2003.<br>• Over the past three years 70 service station sites (40 in 2002-03 alone) have been cleaned up. Strategies are in place for other high-risk contaminated sites to be remediated under the Centenary Fund. |
| Update and implement a tank compliance strategy for petroleum distribution facilities. | Saskatchewan Environment addresses petroleum-contaminated sites via a compliance strategy that was updated and implemented in 2002-03. To help ensure compliance *The Risk Based Corrective Actions for Petroleum Contaminated Sites* document was developed and distributed to help guide clean up efforts. |
| Provide Centenary Fund incentives for municipalities to establish regional low environmental risk waste management systems to greatly reduce the number of landfills in the province. | With the assistance of the Centenary Fund, several regional waste systems have been established in the province. They are: Red Coat Waste Resource Authority (Carlyle and area), Parkland Regional Waste Management Authority (Preeceville/Kamsack/Canora area), the Saskatoon Regional Waste Management Association (Saskatoon area excluding the city), the West Yellowhead Waste Resource Authority (North Battleford and district), and the North Central Saskatchewan Waste Management Group (Prince Albert and area). These are in addition to the existing Regional Authority of Carlton Trail (REACT Humboldt and area) system. |

## Measurement Results

contaminated sites[4]




recycling




While recycling activity is carried out pursuant to Saskatchewan Environment's enabling legislation and regulations, collecting and recycling the material is carried out by industries and third parties therefore Saskatchewan Environment does not control these results.

[4] *Data received from Saskatchewan Environment's Environmental Protection Branch staff.*

[5] *While the number of scrap tires collected was typical, problems at two processor facilities (including a fire that destroyed one) resulted in fewer tires being processed. Data provided to Environment from the Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation.*

[6] *Data provided to Environment from SARCAN, a subsidiary of Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC).*

[7] *Data provided to Environment from Crop Life.*

[8] *Used oil, oil filters and oil containers data provided to Environment from the Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation.*

| mines with decommissioning and reclamation plans and financial assurances in place[9] |
|---|

By 2001-02 year end 66 per cent of mines had decommissioning and reclamation plans and financial assurances in place; by 2002-03, 85 per cent of mines have decommissioning and reclamation plans in place and 71 per cent have financial assurances in place.

Prior to the 2001-02 Saskatchewan Environment did not track mines with decommissioning and plans and financial assurances in the same way, and are therefore unable to provide trend data.

## Objective 4 - Minimize Risks and Adverse Impact of Wildland Fires on People, Property and Natural Resources

Wildland fires can pose significant risks to communities and timber resources. Climate change, human settlement patterns and fire suppression activities may increase the potential severity of wildfires.

Overall the department was severely challenged in advancing this objective. Burning conditions up to the end of June were among the worst ever encountered (conditions that existed could be expected in one out of 20 years). In addition, record fire starts for the first 10 weeks and the requirement to come to the aid of a number of municipalities threatened by fire overwhelmed the available resources to fight fires. The result was a number of large fires that threatened rural and northern communities and burned 698,000 hectares in the full response zone.

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Deliver an effective, cost efficient wildland fire management system.<br><br>Approximately 698,000 hectares burnt in the full response zone (compared to 10-year average of 167,000 hectares. | While the department has an effective and cost efficient wildland fire management system based on early detection, rapid initial attack, strategic deployment of resources (e.g. equipment, well-trained experienced personnel) and tactical flexibility, the 2002 fire season was extraordinarily difficult. The record number of fire starts over the first 10 weeks in the full response zone exceeded the department's initial containment capacity and 117 fires grew larger than 10 hectares (56 of these were larger than 100 hectares). Over the season, 753 fires occurred in the full response zone, the second highest number in the past decade. There were also 125 fire starts in the modified response zone bringing the total number of fire starts in 2002-03 to 878. Approximately 698,000 hectares burnt in the full response zone (compared to 10-year average of 167,000 hectares). As a result of the severe fire season, fire-fighting costs were $112,000,000 (compared to five-year average of $55,000,000). |
| Finalize a science-based Fire, Forest Insect and Disease Management Policy and begin implementation steps. | The new Fire, Forest Insect and Disease Management Policy Framework was approved in March 2003. Additional consultations with stakeholders are planned for 2003-04 as the department implements a framework that incorporates best use of fire suppression resources. |

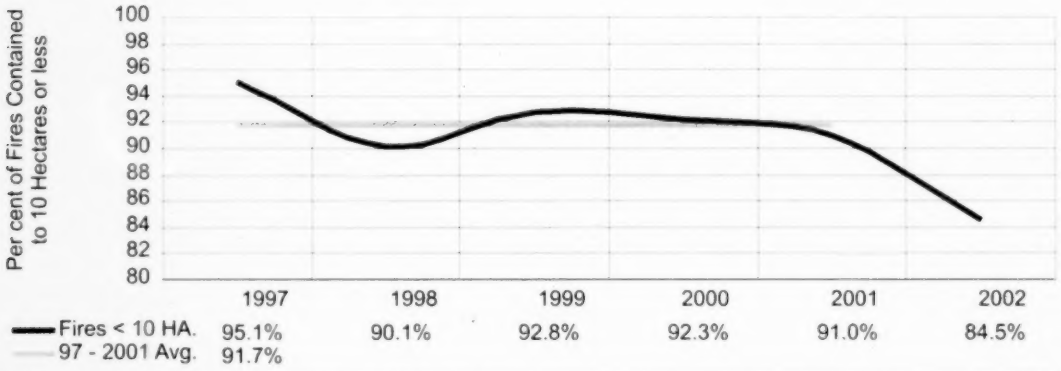
[9] *Data received from Saskatchewan Environment's Environmental Protection Branch staff.*

[1] *Source of data is Saskatchewan Environment's Fire Management and Forest Protection Branch staff.*

**Measurement Results**

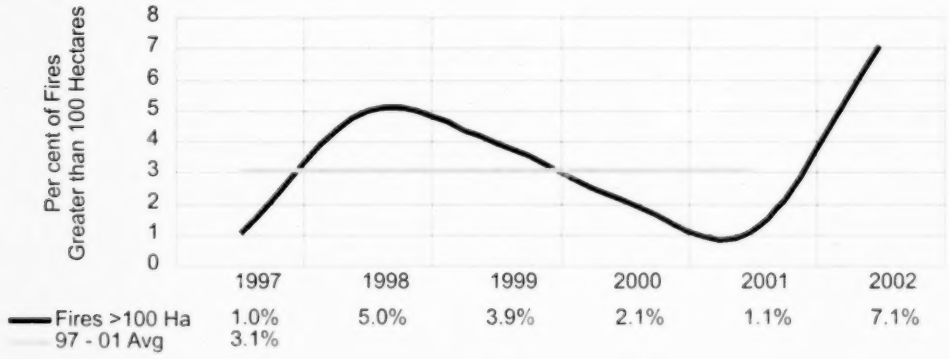
Contained fires: per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less

## Contained Fires




Escaped fires: per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are greater than 100 hectares

## Escaped Fires




The department's success in fighting forest fires depends primarily on the number of fire starts. When fire starts are relatively low (e.g. less than 500)[11] and spread throughout the season, Saskatchewan Environment has the capacity to suppress the fires quickly while they are still relatively small and easier to contain. Moisture conditions impact the number of fires starts and how quickly they grow; moist conditions help impede fires' growth (enabling the department to be more successful at containment). Dry conditions have the opposite effect; fire starts tend to increase because lightning strikes are more likely to lead to fire and human-caused fires more likely to escape containment.

*[11] The long term of average number of fire starts per year in Saskatchewan is close to 700.*

# Goal 2 - Ecosystem Health and Natural Abundance of Renewable Resources

## Objective 5 - Species and Habitat at Risk are Protected

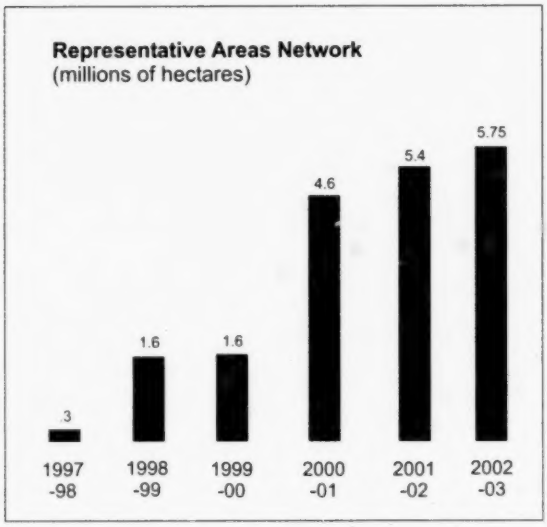
Saskatchewan is facing the potential loss of existing species due to habitat loss and resource use conflicts. Native plant and animal species play an important role in maintaining the ecological integrity of an ecosystem. Conserving natural habitats and managing our use of those habitats and the wildlife populations they support is required to protect our province's threatened species and to prevent additional species from becoming threatened. Environment encourages sustaining and restoring sufficient habitat necessary to maintain viable biological communities.

Overall the department made fair progress in advancing this objective. While progress is being made in recognizing the plants and animals that are suffering significant population reductions, native habitat is highly fragmented, especially in the Prairie Ecozone where only 21 per cent remains as native grassland (much of it in small fragmented patches). The once common practice of breaking native prairie for agriculture is now rare and many agricultural, industrial and forestry practices have been changed to better support sustainability. Invasive exotic species also continue to contribute to a decline in biodiversity. Additional lands have been protected under Saskatchewan's Representative Areas Network, although more should be added in several ecoregions.

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Conduct surveys on lands expected to have species at risk or threatened plant communities to manage and restore habitats necessary to maintain populations. | In 2002-03 Saskatchewan Environment analyzed approximately 130,000 hectares of Prairie Ecozone Crown land containing species at risk but that are not protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* (WHPA). "Ground truthing" (site inspections) identified that up to one third of the inspected land had been cultivated. No steps were taken to protect these areas under WHPA in 2002-03; in 2003-04 the department is working to develop a method to prioritize lands. Some of these lands are being removed from Crown classification to meet obligations under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. |
| Advance priority species to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) for national listing and list provincially under *The Wildlife Act*. | No new species were advanced to COSEWIC because none required listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The department prepared a draft policy on species at risk prioritization and listing; consultations and a legislative review of 32 species slated for listing is pending. |
| Designate new ecological reserves or other protected areas to complete the representative areas network (RAN) and finalize designation of northern representative areas. | From April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, the area designated under RAN increased to 5,750,000 hectares (compared to 5,400,000 hectares in 2001-02). New additions included 12 ecological reserves protecting over 43,000 hectares of land in the Dore Lake and Pasquia-Porcupine Forest areas. |

**Measurement Results**

ecological representative areas[12]




The RAN Program sets aside representative and unique landscapes for the conservation of biological diversity and for their intrinsic value for future generations. The RAN employs an inclusive consultative process with all affected stakeholders (e.g., First Nations, Metis, environmental groups, industry representatives, local people) to obtain public input and support for site selection, designation and management. In many instances, significant time and discussion is required to resolve issues prior to areas being designated.

# Objective 6: Biodiversity and Ecosystems are Sustained

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms and natural processes in an ecosystem. Functioning ecosystems play an important role in ensuring clean air, water and land and the sustainability of renewable resource use. To address the potential adverse impact that some development can have on biodiversity and ecosystem function, Saskatchewan Environment encourages the protection of biodiversity through a number of developmental review and permit systems.

Overall the department made fair progress in advancing this objective. In Saskatchewan, the rate of loss of biodiversity experienced over the past century has slowed dramatically. The once common practice of breaking native prairie for agriculture is now rare and many agricultural, industrial and forestry practices have been changed to better support sustainability. Tighter controls over potentially damaging water management practices (e.g., using channels to alter drainage) help to ensure good water quality. Despite these positive changes, biodiversity continues to be threatened by some non-sustainable resource use, deforestation, exotic invasive species, pollution and climate change. Native grasslands and their associated species are considered to be ecosystems at greatest risk due to past losses to cultivation and the current proliferation of exotic invasive species. The province is addressing the continuing loss of biodiversity through a number of strategies (e.g., Biodiversity Action Plan, RAN, the Forest Management Effects Monitoring Program) and cooperative programs (e.g., Prairie Conservation Action Plan). While new threats to ecosystems such as chronic wasting disease and West Nile virus continue to appear, society has begun to recognize the extent and significance of losing native habitat and biodiversity. Saskatchewan Environment continues to work on determining suitable indicators to monitor the status of biodiversity and ecological integrity and developing strategies to conserve native ecosystems.

[12] *Data source is Saskatchewan Environment's Fish and Wildlife Branch.*

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Assess the status of ecological health and integrity and work to restore disturbed natural functions for one watershed region. | The Assiniboine watershed was selected for an assessment of its ecological health and integrity and work to restore disturbed natural functions. Mid-year the newly created Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was assigned responsibility for watershed planning and given the resources required to bring about the transition of responsibilities. |
| Implement Conservation Action Plan recommendations for provincial parks. | Action taken in 2002-03 included:<br>• created a provincial park species database;<br>• prepared a provincial park forest renewal initiative position paper;<br>• forest renewal activities in Moose Mountain Provincial Park;<br>• controlled threats to parkland such as insect and disease infestations and invasion of noxious weeds and exotic species; and<br>• improved interpretive trails and displays in provincial parks.<br>The Conservation Action Plan is a long term multi-year plan with recommended actions still to be implemented. |
| Finalize and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan following consultation with other departments, the public and stakeholders. | The Saskatchewan Biodiversity Interagency Steering Committee completed a draft Biodiversity Action Plan. Phase II of the Action Plan's consultation strategy was approved by the Government in June 2002 and the public was invited to comment in October 2002. After consultation, the final Action Plan and implementation strategy is to be finalized in 2003. |

| Measurement Results |
|---|
| A measurement tool was under development |

# Goal 3 - Fair Opportunity for Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources

## Objective 7 - Equitable Allocation of Natural Renewable Resources

The department manages almost 37.7 million hectares of Crown land (58 per cent of the total provincial land base), including 35.5 million hectares of forest lands, of which 12.2 million hectares are under commercial development. Residents of Saskatchewan use natural resources for food, clothing, medicine, fuel and shelter as well as for spiritual, recreation and tourism purposes. As the population increases and social and economic needs place greater demands on natural resources, equitable access to and allocation of resources also becomes more challenging. The department must maintain a balance between accommodating increasingly competitive demands on natural resources administered by the department and conserving these resources for future generations.

Overall the department made fair progress in advancing this objective. In combination with population inventories, harvest totals and rates used, an index to population status indicate that most hunted big game species in Saskatchewan have had generally stable populations over the past decade[13]. The department moved closer to finalizing Land Use Plans to ensure equitable and sustainable allocation of natural resources.

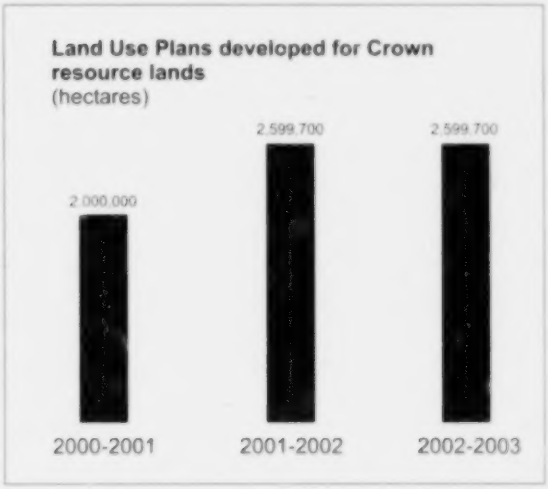
| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Monitor status of harvested populations (e.g. fish, ungulates, forests) and manage resources for long-term sustainability. | • The department conducted inventories to be able to estimate a sustainable ungulate harvest. Results indicate: the moose population in the East Boreal Forest has declined slightly; whitetail deer have increased across the province; antelope numbers have rebounded.<br>• with one exception (moose), harvest for wildlife species increased due to a more liberal hunting season.<br>• the department verified reports submitted by licensees on their timber harvest in provincial forests. |
| Implement and enforce provincial regulations and policies on sustainable allocations. | • The department enforced harvest levels and management plans, tracked revenue owing and current cut levels against harvest volume schedules, monitored day-to-day activities (including hunting and fishing activities) to ensure adherence to regulations, policies, standards and guidelines.<br>• a number of amendments to *The Forest Resource Management Act* were drafted to ensure province-wide standards are applied to all forest operations in Saskatchewan. |
| Monitor/implement Land Use Plans (LUP)[14]: Amisk Atik Integrated Forest LUP, La Ronge Land Use and Development Plan, Buffalo Pound Integrated LUP and Athabasca Road Corridor LUP. | • approval is pending on the Amisk Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan involving more than 4,000,000 hectares (subject to boundary approval)<br>• the 66,700 hectare La Ronge Land Use and Development Plan is under review<br>• approval process for the Buffalo Pound Integrated LUP will carry into 2003-04<br>• approval process for the Athabasca Road Corridor LUP will carry into 2003-04 |

[13] *Population trends of wildlife species that aren't hunted are generally poorly documented. Saskatchewan Environment. 2003. Saskatchewan's 2003 State of the Environment Report - A Provincial Perspective. p. 61.*

[14] *Completed LUPs are: Pasquia Porcupine, Prince Albert Model Forest, Manitou and Great Sand Hills (review initiated in 2002). Other LUPs under development include: Pinehouse/Dipper Integrated Forest LUP, North Central Integrated Forest LUP, Nisbet Integrated Forest LUP and Fort a la Corne Integrated LUP. All of these plans are developing on schedule.*

**Measurement Results**

land use plans developed for Crown resource lands [15]




Land use planning (LUP) is a complex process that involves many individuals and organizations to integrate environmental, social and economic values, resolve conflict, build common objectives, ensure openness and inclusiveness allowing for adaptation to global, national and local needs. The time required to develop and finalize plans is extensive and can be unpredictable.

## Objective 8 - Accessible Recreation and Educational Opportunities on Provincial Park and Crown Resource Lands

Provincial parks and Crown lands are a public resource valued by the public for recreational and economic benefits through tourism. They are part of the provinces' strategy for diversifying the economy through eco-development. It is a responsibility of Saskatchewan Environment to ensure affordable access and safe, sustainable use of these resources (a provincial park system consisting of 34 provincial parks, 130 recreation sites, 24 protected areas, eight historical sites and nine ecological reserves) by the public within established policies and guidelines.

Due to campground additions and strategic marketing, the department's overall progress in advancing this objective was good despite below average temperatures. Longer term, extensive strategic planning and focussed capital and Centenary funding has positioned Saskatchewan's provincial park system to ensure continued success.

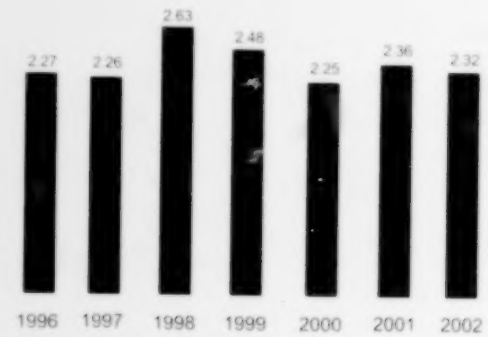
[15] *Data source is Saskatchewan Environment's Fish and Wildlife Branch*

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Continue to implement a provincial park marketing strategy and the Conservation Action Plan (see Objective 6) for provincial parks. | A provincial park marketing program was implemented, including:<br>• promotional partnerships were undertaken with the CAA, Tourism Saskatchewan, local and regional tourism groups, CTV and radio stations.<br>• a major billboard program was delivered to the key Alberta market including 12 billboards on major highways around Calgary and Edmonton. |
| Continue capital upgrade and replacement of basic provincial park recreational and educational facilities and enhanced education and historic facilities for 2005 Centennial earmarked for 2002-03. | Core capital funding has continued to focus on maintaining, upgrading/replacing park amenities such as camping facilities, water and wastewater disposal systems, resource management and interpretive program facilities. Since 2000-01 the province's Centenary Fund has supplemented core funding.<br>• in 2002-03 improvements were made at Lac La Ronge, Moose Mountain, Cypress Hills, Danielson, Greenwater Lake, Meadow Lake, Rowan's Ravine, Saskatchewan Landing, Duck Mountain, Buffalo Pound, Echo Valley, Pike Lake, Makwa Lake and Chitek Lake.<br>• cultural resources were protected at St Victor Petroglyphs and Cannington Manor.<br>• the department cooperated with Saskatchewan Highways to improve roads at Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Emma/Anglin Lake Recreation Sites.<br>• private sector improvements were made at: Kenosee golf course (Moose Mountain), Greenhills golf course (Greenwater Lake), Makwa Lake and Saskatchewan Landing golf courses.<br>• lessees upgraded sites at Bronson Forest, Weyakawin Lake and Ministikwan Lake recreation sites and Howe Bay in Meadow Lake Provincial Park. |
| Undertake a mutual review of funding with Urban Park Authorities for urban parks. Initiate review of the department's role in relation to new responsibilities for Urban Park Authorities. | A review of funding for the four urban parks funded by the province was completed and a supplementary funding increase of 10 per cent ($172,000) for 2003-04 was announced.<br><br>A review of the urban parks program to determine future legislative and program requirements is expected in 2003. |
| Design financial strategy for provincial parks and initiate legislative changes required to implement. | Research has begun on options to improve financial sustainability of parks, such as expanding cottage development. Strategy is to be implemented in 2004 and completed over a two to three year period. |
| Complete and implement framework for defining level of recreational and educational services for selected parks. | Principles for defining the level of recreational and educational services for provincial parks are in place and being applied to capital budget planning. *Interpretation for the 21st Century - An Interpretive Strategy for Saskatchewan's Park Lands* was completed. More than 18,800 students/youths and over 70,000 other participants took part in conducted interpretive/educational programs. Many others used the self-guided interpretive trails and displays in Saskatchewan's provincial parks. |

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Expand partnerships with First Nations, non-government organizations and financial sponsorships of provincial park activities. | • Several partnerships/sponsorship arrangements have continued from past years: public education/interpretation partnership at Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park with Beardy's/Okemasis First Nation, Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park with Nekaneet and Carry The Kettle First Nations; Saskatchewan Lotteries sponsorship of the Sask Express Parks Tour.<br>• The department partnered with Lac La Ronge First Nation/community, the Stanley Mission school, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation to complete a display on the history of the Stanley Mission Historic Site and area.<br>• A steering/advisory committee involving environmental groups, First Nations, park and local interest groups was established at Cypress Hills to assist in the planning for forest/ecosystem renewal.<br>• Brochures and other promotional items to solicit financial/outside partners for provincial parks were developed. |

**Measurement Results**

public use of provincial parks - park visits[15]




While weather is an important influence on how many people visit parks, it is not the only one. New, improved facilities (e.g. campground additions) and strategic marketing helped the department maintain park visitation rates over time years despite summers with below average temperatures and other factors that have a negative impact on tourism.

provincial park visitor's satisfaction

The department is unable to report progress on this measure due to the unavailability of data. See Appendix D for further information.

[15] *Data provided by Saskatchewan Environment's Parks and Special Places Branch.*

## Objective 9 - Increased Economic Benefits Based on Sustainable Use of Natural Renewable Resources

It is an ongoing challenge to maintain a balance between Saskatchewan Environment's mandate to conserve, protect and sustain natural renewable resources and the province's need to meet demands for development of those resources. Achieving sustainable economic development of our natural renewable resources is an integral part of environmental management. Promoting the wise use of our resources for economic gain, in balance with other protection and conservation objectives, provides both social value and a means by which environmental sustainability costs can be addressed.

Overall the department made good progress in advancing this objective. In the forestry sector, long-term forest management plans and forest inventories are providing increasingly complete information in support of sustainable use of forest resources. Improved information and planning has been balanced by a continual increase in the contribution of the forest industry to the Saskatchewan economy despite short-term variations caused by factors such as the United States softwood lumber countervail and cyclical changes in world lumber prices. A combination of higher production and generally higher prices for most species of commercial fish has resulted in enhanced income for the commercial fishing industry over the past years and economic benefits directly related to sport fishing have more than doubled over 20 years. Tourism is the fourth-largest and fastest growing industry in the province.

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Continued development of the Saskatchewan Forestry Centre (SFC). | • Construction of SFC's new permanent building located in Prince Albert began; staff were hired and objectives/operating order established.<br>• SFC attracted organizations that have little or no previous activity in Saskatchewan (e.g. Forintek, Geospatial Timberline).<br>• A business proposal for forestry data management was prepared and the Island Forest Trust Fund established. Development of the Forest Vital Data Warehouse has begun and Canada's only Agroforestry Technical Transfer team was established within the Saskatchewan Forestry Centre. |
| Assess major commercial fish stocks with hydro acoustic program. | The sustainability of increases in production have not yet been verified by inventory data, however, implementation of a new hydro acoustic program will enable the department to more effectively determine the level of commercially sustainable fish harvest levels. The summer of 2002 was the first year of operation of the hydro acoustic program. Equipment was calibrated and an initial fish assessment was completed on Candle Lake, Whelan Bay and Jan Lake. |
| Complete negotiations of Term Supply License (TSL) and Forest Management Areas (FMAs) to cover expanded wood supply allocations. | One TSL was completed and one TSL was outstanding as of March 31, 2003.<br>• North West Communities Wood Products (NWCWP) TSL was issued and a five-year operating plan given conditional approval in March 2003; and<br>• Kitsaki Zelensky TSL is expected to be issued by June, 2003.<br>Mistik FMA amendment was completed effective November, 2002 including an Assignment Agreement for Meadow Lake-OSB wood supply. |
| Complete forest inventory of forest lands in the northwest now available for economic development. | A baseline forest inventory of the NWCWP proposed TSL area was completed and used by NWCWP to develop their TSL five-year operating plan. The information will be expanded and refined over |

| Measurement Results |
|---|
| economic impact of forestry in the province[17] |

In 2001, 5.3 million cubic metres of timber were harvested from 6,911,000 hectares of sustainably managed forest with an estimated value of $884,000,000. Estimated results for 2002-03 indicate 4.3 million cubic metres of wood were harvested in Saskatchewan (dollar value for the 2002-03 harvest is not currently available). The decrease resulted from a combination of normal global market fluctuations and the impact of a softwood lumber countervail duty.

| economic impact of commercial fishing and aquaculture |
|---|

Due to the unavailability of data the department is unable to report progress on this measure.

| economic returns from outdoor recreation |
|---|

Due to the unavailability of data the department is unable to report progress on this measure. See Appendix D for further details.

## Objective 10 - First Nations and Metis Rights and Their Interests in the Use of NaturalResources are Met Through Cooperative Means

First Nations and Metis people have distinct constitutional and legal rights to fish and wildlife resources. They are significant partners of the department. Strategic relationships and cooperative action at the provincial, regional and local level are essential, both to meet Aboriginal interests and rights and for effective management of natural resources, local social and economic development and environmental protection.

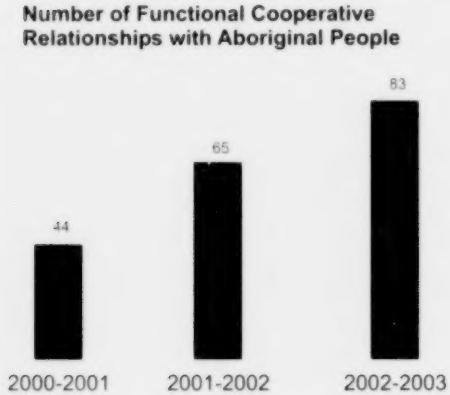
Overall the department made good progress in advancing this objective. Increasing number of cooperative relationship with Aboriginal groups assist in: facilitating dialogue and sharing information, enhancing trust/awareness between Aboriginal groups and Saskatchewan Environment, enhanced benefits to Aboriginal groups from renewable resources and better resource management decisions. Saskatchewan Environment is a national leader in this field and continues to set an example for other jurisdictions.

| Key Actions for 2002-03 | Actual Progress on Key Actions |
|---|---|
| Increase number of functional cooperative relationships with First Nations and Metis groups. | The department continues to enter into cooperative partnerships with Aboriginal organizations including the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, tribal councils, First Nations and Metis communities. In 2002-03 the department formed an additional 18 relationships with First Nations and Metis groups. Examples include Treaty Four Governance (foster an enhanced working relationship between the 27 Treaty Four First Nations and the Treaty Four Executive Council) and Nekaneet First Nation (foster an enhanced working relationship between Nekaneet First Nation and other First Nations in the Cypress Hills). Particularly in the Northern Administrative District (the vast majority of it administered by Saskatchewan Environment), positive relationships have affected land use planning, economic development, and sustainable resource management. |
| Increase number of successful alternative measure interventions with First Nations and Metis individuals. | There were five alternative measure interventions with First Nations and Metis individuals in 2002-03. When compared with traditional justice procedures, alternative measures may be a better fit with community justice programs and modern policing models, helping to achieve enhanced community involvement and ownership in the justice process. Cases are diverted away from the court system and referred to a Community Justice Board or local Tribal Council Justice Board. |

[17] *Data source is Saskatchewan Environment's Forest Ecosystems Branch.*

## Measurement Results

number of functional cooperative relationships with First Nations and Metis groups[18]




The department works to build new relationships with Aboriginal groups while ensuring existing relationships are supported and continue to grow. Functional co-operative relationships with First Nation and Metis groups can be formal (written) or informal (oral) agreements and arrangements that can include consultation/communication, capacity building, resource management decision-making, conservation projects, interpretive programs, community justice, economic development initiatives in the resource management sector, land use planning, etc. All of the cooperative agreements are based on a mutual desire to foster understanding, build relationships and further the involvement of Aboriginal people in managing and conserving natural resources and in the economic fabric of Saskatchewan.

application of alternative measures to address Aboriginal infractions[19]

In 2001-02 there were 22 (63 per cent of the total number) of alternate measures applied to address Aboriginal infractions, in 2002-03 there were five applications of alternative measures to address Aboriginal infractions (or 20 per cent of the total number of alternative measures applied).

The number of alternative measure interventions have decreased since 2000-01 due to issues raised by Aboriginal groups on the understanding and implementation of the intervention document. Further investigation, evaluation and work with Aboriginal partners will be carried out over 2003-04. The department is also in the process of evaluating this performance measure.

[18] *Data source is Saskatchewan Environment's Public Involvement and Aboriginal Affairs Branch.*

[19] *Data source is Saskatchewan Environment's Public Involvement and Aboriginal Affairs Branch and Enforcement and Compliance Branch.*

# Other Key Accomplishments

The following actions were also undertaken in 2002-03. As with key actions outlined previously, they support the department's performance plan. They are included here because they address more than one objective.

**Regulation and Enforcement**
In 2002-03 there were:

- 238 warnings and 346 charges under *The Wildlife Act* and Regulations,
- 358 warnings and 527 charges under *The Fisheries Act* and Regulations,
- 66 warnings and 12 charges under *The Prairie and Forest Fire Act* and Regulations and *The Forest Resources Management Act* and Regulations,
- 193 warnings, 239 charges and 207 written evictions from provincial parks under *The Parks Act* and Regulations,
- 25 warnings and 9 charges and under Migratory Bird Regulations, and
- 12 warnings and charges under regulations pertaining to outfitters and guides.

**Environmental Assessment**
Using a standing panel of representatives from provincial departments and agencies with environmental and socio-economic interests and responsibilities (the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Review Panel), the department's Environmental Assessment Branch reviewed 131 proposed development projects during the 2002-03 fiscal year to evaluate their potential environmental impacts and the adequacy of available environmental safeguards.

**Public Involvement and Aboriginal Affairs**

- Saskatchewan Environment partnered in the development of a university degree program designed to attract Aboriginal students into the conservation enforcement field.
- Yellow Quill First Nation formalized a commitment to work in partnership towards an eventual allocation of timber resources on agricultural Crown land.
- More than 3,100 hectares of Crown resource land administered by Saskatchewan Environment was sold under the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Program in 2002-03. This brings the total of department-administered Crown resource land sold for TLE purposes since 1992 to 37,700 hectares.
- New capacity building included: a new position - Aboriginal Recruitment Officer - was created to focus on the recruitment of Aboriginal people for education and employment in the area of resource management, and the Conservation Officer "Ranger" Program employs Aboriginal students in resource management position during the summer.

**Communications**
Saskatchewan Environment communicates to achieve four main goals. The goals and some examples of actions taken are:

1) Encourage sound environmental decisions that leave people satisfied with the decision-making process and maintain good relationships. For example:
   - The department seeks input and participation from stakeholders, Aboriginal people and the public in decisions on environmental management policies and programs through surveys, workshops, advisory groups and meetings.
   - The department produced 65 publications, including Guides (Hunting and Trapping, Anglers', Provincial Parks), information on water treatment for all the province's water treatment plant operators, and a range of other targeted publications.
   - 43 feature articles on environmental stewardship were produced for the media.
2) The public and stakeholders are informed of risks from arising from nature and actions they can take to protect themselves.
   - Daily reports were provided on wildfire prevention and safety during one of the worst fire seasons on record.
   - Detailed information was provided to hunters on the safe handling of deer and elk suspected of having chronic wasting disease.
3) Report to the public on department direction/issues/actions and performance.
   - Improvements were made to the Annual Report to improve consistency with the Government's Accountability Project.
   - *Saskatchewan's 2003 State of the Environment Report - A Provincial Perspective* was produced to provide an overview of the status of the environment and resources in all of the province's four ecozones.
   - Staff conducted approximately 3,700 media interviews to explain the department's activities.
   - The department's website had almost 13 million hits (over 500,000 visits) in 2002-03.
4) Internal communications that improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.
   - The department refined its intranet to ensure staff have easy access to timely, relevant information on department programs. The average number of users per day has increased from 313 (in 2001) to 862 (in April 2003). More than 26 per cent of staff now regard the department's intranet as their best source of information on the department.

# 2002-03 Fiscal Year Results

## Revenues 2002-03

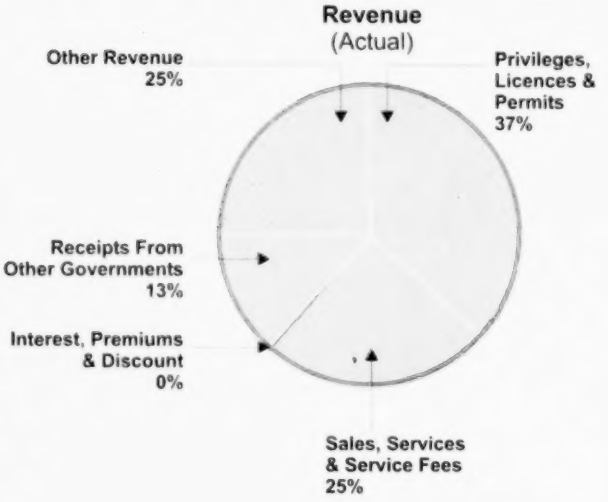
**Period Ending March 31, 2003 (in $000's)**

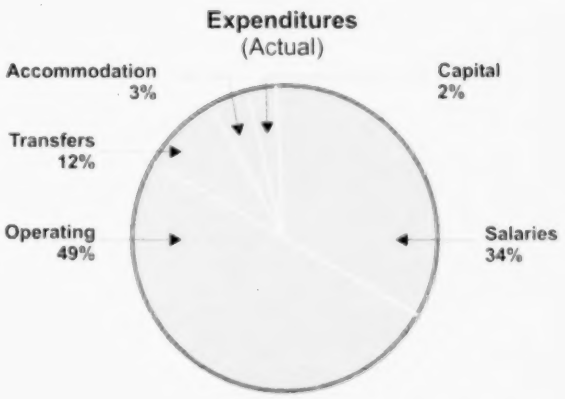
| Description of Revenue | 2002-03 Actual | 2002-03 Budget | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Privileges, Licences & Permits | 20,112 | 20,629 | (517) |
| Sale, Services & Service Fees | 13,663 | 13,581 | 82 |
| Interest, Premiums and Discount | 51 | 16 | 35 |
| Receipts From Other Governments | 7,407 | 4,188 | 3,219 (1) |
| Other Revenue | 13,705 | 3,091 | 10,614 (2) |
| **Total Revenue Items** | **54,938** | **41,505** | **13,433** |

(1) Additional revenue from the Federal Government due to higher than expected fire suppression services delivered in 2002-03.

(2) Variance due in part to retroactive accounting adjustments.

Saskatchewan Environment's forecast revenue for 2002-03 was $41.5 million; actual revenue recorded was $54.9 million. The majority of this revenue comes from environmental handling charges, forestry fees and dues, fishing and hunting license sales, and receipts from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs.




The 2002-03 department budget was $130.9 million plus special warrant funding of $49.1 million required to provide for: increased forest fire fighting expenses; water management programming activity transferred to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority from the Saskatchewan Water Corporation; and provincial contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund due to higher than expected sales of fish and wildlife licenses. An additional $518,000 was allocated to Saskatchewan Environment for statutory net financing requirements for the department's two revolving funds. In total, the department's appropriation for 2002-03 was $180.5 million.

Total 2002-03 expenditures were $180.3 million, a variance of $176,000 from revised Estimates. The significant variances are explained in the expenditure table on the following page.

## Expenditures 2002-03
### Period Ending March 31, 2003 (in $000's)

| Subvote | 2002-03 Actual | 2002-03 Estimates | Variance | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ER01 Administration** | 6,972 | 6,991 | (19) | |
| **ER02 Accommodation and Central Services** | 5,825 | 6,063 | (238) | (1) |
| **ER08 Operations** | | | | |
| Field Operations | 22,975 | 23,361 | (386) | (2) |
| Operational Support Services | 5,566 | 5,853 | (287) | (3) |
| Commercial Revolving Fund - Subsidy | 5,400 | 5,400 | 0 | |
| Commercial Revolving Fund - Net Financing Requirement (Statutory) | 114 | ..... | 114 | |
| Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund - Subsidy | ..... | ..... | 0 | |
| Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund - Net Financing Requirement (Statutory) | 404 | ..... | 404 | |
| Subvote Total | 34,459 | 34,614 | (155) | |
| **ER09 Forest Ecosystems** | | | 0 | |
| Forest Programs | 6,054 | 6,096 | (42) | |
| Reforestation | 3,690 | 3,842 | (152) | (4) |
| Insect and Disease Control | 2,274 | 2,406 | (132) | (5) |
| Subvote Total | 12,018 | 12,344 | (326) | |
| **ER10 Fire Management and Forest Protection** | | | 0 | |
| Forest Fire Operations | 76,171 | 35,185 | 40,986 | (6) |
| Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations | 4,986 | 1,400 | 3,586 | (7) |
| Subvote Total | 81,157 | 36,585 | 44,572 | |
| **ER03 Environmental Assessment** | 820 | 873 | (53) | |
| **ER11 Environmental Protection** | | | 0 | |
| Environmental Protection | 5,577 | 3,580 | 1,997 | (8) |
| Support for Environmental Programs | 230 | 234 | (4) | |
| Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System | 9,270 | 9,335 | (65) | |
| Subvote Total | 15,077 | 13,149 | 1,928 | |
| **ER04 Parks and Special Places** | | | 0 | |
| Park Programs | 2,638 | 2,723 | (85) | |
| Regional Parks | 75 | 75 | 0 | |
| Facilities Capital | 2,094 | 2,228 | (134) | (9) |
| Meewasin Valley Authority (Statutory) | 740 | 740 | 0 | |
| Wakamow Valley Authority (Statutory) | 127 | 127 | 0 | |
| Wascana Centre Authority (Statutory) | 782 | 782 | 0 | |
| Wascana Centre Authority Maintenance | 1,840 | 1,840 | 0 | |
| Swift Current Chinook Parkway | 78 | 78 | 0 | |
| Subvote Total | 8,374 | 8,593 | (219) | |
| **ER15 Sustainable Land Management** | 1,528 | 1,654 | (126) | |
| **ER05 Fish and Wildlife** | 4,733 | 5,004 | (271) | (10) |
| **ER07 Fish and Wildlife Development Fund** | | | | |
| Fish Development | 1,357 | 1,345 | 12 | |
| Wildlife Development | 1,840 | 1,715 | 125 | (11) |
| Subvote Total | 3,197 | 3,060 | 137 | |
| **ER14 Policy and Public Involvement** | 1,826 | 1,946 | (120) | |
| **ER16 Water Management and Protection** | 4,338 | ..... | 4,338 | (12) |
| **Subtotal** | **180,324** | **130,876** | **49,448** | |
| **Special Warrant Funding** | | 49,106 | | |
| **Statutory Funding** | | 518 | | |
| | **180,324** | **180,500** | **176** | |

**Explanation of Variances:**

(1) Accommodation charges less than budgeted as a result of moving into new space later in the year than planned as well as fewer renovations completed in department leased space than planned.
(2) Planned under expenditure due to reduced field activity and vacancy management to help offset increased demands on resources in the fire suppression program.
(3) Planned under expenditure through reduced information technology upgrades and vacancy management to help offset increased demands on resources in the fire suppression program.
(4) Reforestation site preparation was reduced due to fire activity in planned reforestation areas during the summer of 2002.
(5) Under expenditure due primarily to adjustments to the planned spraying program as fewer hectares were sprayed due to unfavourable weather conditions.
(6) Over expenditure due to the extreme fire season. Refer to page 19 for further details respecting the 2002 fire season.
(7) Over expenditure due to higher than expected fire suppression services delivered under Federal agreements in 2002-03.
(8) Over expenditure due to monies set aside to address outstanding litigation.
(9) Planned under expenditure through reduced park facility upgrading in order to help offset increased demands on resources in the fire suppression program.
(10) Under expenditure due primarily to lower demand on the Crop Damage Prevention program. The lower demand was a product of the early harvest in the agricultural sector.
(11) Grant payments to the FWDF are based on a percentage of certain hunting and fishing licenses sold throughout the province. This over expenditure is the result of higher than budgeted license sales.
(12) Over expenditure due to the establishment of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority effective October 1, 2002. GRF funding for this function was previously reported in Saskatchewan Water Corporation, Vote 50.

## General Revenue Fund

| Grant Recipient | Purpose of Grant | Amount Paid ($000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Beverly - Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board | Operating Grant | 15 |
| Canada's Climate Change Voluntary Challenge & Registry Inc. | Operating Grant | 5 |
| Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment | Operating Grant | 37 |
| Congress Forestier Mondial | Contribution for the planning of the XII World Forestry Congress | 10 |
| Ducks Unlimited Canada | SNOWS project | 6 |
| Fish & Wildlife Development Fund | Grant to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund - 30% of revenues collected by the province on certain angling and hunting licences issued | 3,197 |
| Forest Engineering Research Institute | Operating Grant - participation in joint Silvicultural and Small-Scale operations programs | 10 |
| Fur Institute of Canada | Funding for trap research and development program, standard development, trapper education and public information programs | 11 |
| Meewasin Valley Authority | Urban Park Statutory Payments | 740 |
| National Forest Strategy | Oversee the implementation and evaluation of the National Forest Strategy by undertaking a series of initiatives as outlined in the Canada Forest Accord/National Forestry Strategy | 12 |
| National Forest Strategy | Cost-share with federal, provincial and territorial governments toward the development of the new national forest strategy | 13 |
| Operator Certification Board | Operating Grant | 11 |
| Receiver General for Canada | Financial participation to the International Forestry Partnerships Program | 6 |
| Receiver General for Canada | Canadian Council of Forest Ministers national forest information system agreement | 24 |
| Receiver General for Canada | Financial participation in the CCFM Criteria and Indicators Framework Review | 11 |
| Redberry Regional Economic Development Authority Corp. | Grant to provide support for the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve to assist in developing sustained community partnerships that help ensure the long term sustainability of the project | 10 |
| Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres | Beverage Container Program handling fees | 9,270 |
| Saskatchewan Commercial Fisherman's Co-Operative Federation Ltd | Operating Grant | 50 |
| Saskatchewan Eco-Network Inc. | Operating Grant | 15 |
| Saskatchewan Forestry Association | Corporate Annual Membership Grant | 9 |
| Saskatchewan Regional Parks | Provide assistance for operational requirements and organizational development to support the local regional park boards | 75 |
| Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board | Funding for Guard Dog Subsidy Program | 5 |
| Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council | Operational grant for sustaining membership | 5 |
| Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board | Operating Grant | 80 |
| Saskatchewan Watershed Authority | Transfer payment | 4,123 |
| Saskatchewan Watershed Authority | Staff transfer costs | 247 |
| Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation | Funding for Annual Convention | 5 |
| Swift Current, City of | Urban Park Payment | 78 |
| University of Regina | Climate change | 15 |
| University of Regina | Prairie Adaptation Research Co-operative (PARC) - research relating to effects of potential environmental change on development opportunities | 5 |
| University of Regina | To research ecosystem vulnerability | 40 |
| University of Regina | Canadian Plains Research Center - one time grant in support of continued research related to natural capital accounting as applicable to Saskatchewan | 5 |
| University of Saskatchewan | Support the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre | 30 |
| Wakamow Valley Authority | Urban Park Statutory Payments | 127 |
| Wascana Centre Authority | Urban Park Statutory Payments | 782 |
| Wascana Centre Authority Maintenance | Urban Park Payments | 1,840 |
| Other (individual grants less than $5,000) | | 33 |
| **TOTAL GRANTS 2002-03 - VOTE 026** | | **20,957** |

The **Commercial Revolving Fund** (CRF) is the financing mechanism for collection and distribution of funds used in the operation of the province's provincial parks, recreation sites and historical parks. The fund receives revenue from commercial activities that take place within the province's parks and campgrounds such as camping, entry gate collection, cottage lot rental, commercial lease facilities, resource use activities and other miscellaneous items. Expenditures within the Commercial Revolving Fund relate to the operation of the provincial park system and are made to ensure safe public enjoyment of provincial parks and recreational sites.

**Statement 1**

## COMMERCIAL REVOLVING FUND

**BALANCE SHEET**
**As at March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Leases receivable (Note 9) | $ 217 | $ 281 |
| Inventories | 170 | 176 |
| | 387 | 457 |
| Capital assets (Note 5) | 1,368 | 1,171 |
| | $ 1,755 | $ 1,628 |
| **LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY** | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable (Note 9) | $ 564 | $ 427 |
| Non-current liabilities: | | |
| Accumulated net expenditure (Statement 3 and Note 9) | 943 | 1,191 |
| Fund equity: | | |
| Accumulated operating surplus/(deficit) (Statement 2) | 248 | 10 |
| | $ 1,755 | $ 1,628 |

**Statement 2**

## COMMERCIAL REVOLVING FUND

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) Budget | 2003 (000's) Actual | 2002 (000's) Actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | (Note 8) | | |
| Camping | $ 3,478 | $ 3,738 | $ 3,795 |
| Lease Revenue | 2,640 | 2,738 | 2,741 |
| Entry | 1,745 | 1,831 | 1,871 |
| Swimming & accommodation | 375 | 439 | 438 |
| Other | 330 | 436 | 389 |
| | 8,568 | 9,182 | 9,234 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 9,266 | 9,090 | 9,310 |
| Contractual services | 2,132 | 2,347 | 2,372 |
| Supplies and service | 1,310 | 1,268 | 1,291 |
| Travel and business | 913 | 1,008 | 1,125 |
| Other Expenses | 687 | 631 | 730 |
| | 14,308 | 14,344 | 14,828 |
| Loss from operations | (5,740) | (5,162) | (5,594) |
| Subsidy from General Revenue Fund | 5,400 | 5,400 | 5,494 |
| Net (loss) income (Note 10) | $ (340) | 238 | (100) |
| Accumulated operating surplus/(deficit), beginning of year | | 10 | 110 |
| Accumulated operating surplus/(deficit), end of year - to Statement 1 | | $ 248 | $ 10 |

Statement 3

## COMMERCIAL REVOLVING FUND

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED NET EXPENDITURE/(RECOVERY)**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Financing (provided by)/required for operating activities: | | |
| Net loss (income) | $ (239) | $ 100 |
| Items not affecting working capital | | |
| - amortization | (302) | (255) |
| - gain on disposal of capital assets | 31 | 1 |
| Net increase in working capital items related to operations (Note 6) | (45) | 275 |
| Net financing provided by operating activities | (555) | 121 |
| Financing (provided by)/required for investing activities: | | |
| Purchase of capital assets | 502 | 441 |
| Proceeds from sale of capital assets | (34) | (4) |
| Net financing required for investing activities | 468 | 437 |
| Net increase in financing requirement | (87) | 558 |
| Accumulated net expenditure, beginning of year | 1,191 | 633 |
| Accumulated net expenditure, end of year - to Statement 1 | $ 1,104 | $ 1,191 |

## COMMERCIAL REVOLVING FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**March 31, 2003**
(Unaudited)

1. **Authority and Definition of Reporting Entity**
The Revolving Fund operates under the authority of Section 18 of *The Natural Resources Act*. The purpose of the Revolving Fund is to conduct commercial activities required for the promotion, development and management of provincial parks. The Department of Environment administers the Revolving Fund.

2. **Significant Accounting Policies**
The financial statements are prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. These financial statements do not present a cash flow statement because the required cash flow information is readily apparent from the Statement of Changes in Accumulated Net Expenditure and Note 6. The following accounting policies are considered significant.

a) Net Expenditure/(Recovery)
The net financing requirements is the cash flow from/(to) the General Revenue Fund. It represents the total annual financing requirements resulting from net capital acquisitions, working capital changes and net cash flows from operations.

b) Accumulated Net Expenditure/(Recovery)
The accumulated net expenditure/(recovery) of the Revolving Fund includes the following:

i) the net increase (decrease) in financing requirements for each fiscal year; and
ii) the book value of assets acquired at no charge from another government agency.

c) Inventories
Inventories consist of maps, wildlife manual, pins, and other miscellaneous items and are valued at average cost.

d) Capital Assets
Individual capital assets costing more than $500 are capitalized. Amortization commences in the first year of acquisition and is calculated on the straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. Annual amortization rates are from 5% to 33% for equipment and 10% for furnishings.

3. **Authorized Financing**
Section 18(10) of *The Natural Resources Act* specifies that the maximum accumulated net expenditure, which may be outstanding at any time, will be set by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A maximum amount of $4,000,000 was established by Order in Council 516/94.

4. **Accumulated Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**
Treasury Board controls the operations of the Revolving Fund, in part by monitoring the amount of its accumulated operating surplus/(deficit). If the amount falls above or below the limit specified by Treasury Board, management is responsible to present a plan to address the excess surplus/(deficit) for approval by Treasury Board. A plan may include, but is not limited to, payment of excess surpluses to, or request for additional funding from, the General Revenue Fund. Treasury Board has specified the limit for the accumulated operating surplus/(deficit) as $350,000.

5. **Capital Assets**

| | 2003 (000's) | | | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Book Value | Net Book Value |
| Equipment | $ 7,112 | $ 5,820 | $ 1,292 | $ 1,107 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 369 | 293 | 76 | 64 |
| | $ 7,481 | $ 6,113 | $ 1,368 | $ 1,171 |

6. **Net Change in Working Capital Items Related to Operations**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| (Decrease) in leases receivable | $ (96) | $ (5) |
| (Decrease)/increase in inventories | 5 | (1) |
| Decrease in accounts payable | 136 | 281 |
| | $ 45 | $ 275 |

7. **Related Party Transactions**
These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Revolving Fund is related to all Saskatchewan Crown agencies such as departments, corporations, boards and commissions under the common control of the Government of Saskatchewan. Also, the Revolving Fund is related to non-Crown enterprises that the Government jointly controls or significantly influences.

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at agreed upon rates and settled on normal trade terms. These transactions at year end are as follows:

| Category | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Contractual services | $ 79 | $ 82 |
| Travel and business | 733 | 810 |
| Supplies and service | 1,466 | 1,376 |
| Communication | - | 4 |
| Capital assets | 81 | 48 |
| Accounts payable | 50 | 46 |

In addition, the Revolving Fund pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions, with related parties, and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and the notes thereto.

The Department of Environment is responsible for the acquisition of land for provincial parks. Therefore, land is not reflected in these financial statements. However, in accordance with *The Natural Resources Act* the Revolving Fund is credited with all rents and fees with respect to land.

In accordance with established government policy, the Revolving Fund has not been charged with certain costs including occupancy, financing and certain administrative costs. These costs have been absorbed by the departmental appropriations and therefore no provision for such costs is reflected in these financial statements.

8. **Budget**
These amounts are included in the budget submitted to Treasury Board for approval. Treasury Board approves the Revolving Fund's budget annually.

9. **Financial Instruments**
The Revolving Fund's financial instruments include leases receivable and accounts payable. Due to their immediate or short-term maturity, the fair value of these instruments approximates their carrying value.

The fair value of the accumulated net expenditure has not been provided because it is not practicable to determine the fair value with sufficient reliability.

The Revolving Fund is exposed to minimal credit risk from the potential non-payment of accounts receivable. Most receivables were received subsequent to year end.

**10. Amount Reported in Public Accounts**

The net expenditure (recovery) of the Revolving Fund reported in Public Accounts is the net income/(loss) of the Revolving Fund adjusted for the following differences in accounting policies and other adjustments between the Revolving Fund and the General Revenue Fund:

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Net (loss) income | $ 238 | $ (100) |
| Decrease/(increase) in inventory | 5 | 2 |
| (Increase) in net book value of capital assets | (197) | (183) |
| Amounts not included in Public Accounts due to timing | (160) | 160 |
| Net (expenditure)/recovery reported in Public Accounts | $ (114) | $ (121) |

**11. Comparative Figures**

Certain comparative figures have been restated to conform to the current year's financial statement presentation.

The **Resource Protection and Development Revolving Fund** (RPDRF) is a funding mechanism used by the department for cost allocation of capital and operating expenditures that apply to a number of different cost centres (Radio Communications, Equipment Rental, Staff Housing, and Northern Air Operations) within the department. Resource users are charged a fee based on the cost of providing the goods and services.

**Statement 1**

## RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND

**BALANCE SHEET**
**As at March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Accounts receivable (Note 10) | $ 77 | $ 209 |
| Inventories | 366 | 433 |
| Prepaid expenses | 49 | 48 |
| | 492 | 690 |
| Capital assets (Note 5) | 3,000 | 2,622 |
| | $ 3,492 | $ 3,312 |
| **LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY** | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable (Note 10) | $ 57 | $ 96 |
| Non-current liabilities: | | |
| Accumulated net expenditure (Statement 3 and Note 10) | 3,475 | 3,119 |
| Fund equity: | | |
| Accumulated operating (deficit)/surplus (Statement 2) | (40) | 97 |
| | $ 3,492 | $ 3,312 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 2

## RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | Budget (Note 9) | 2003 (000's) Actual | 2002 (000's) Actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | | |
| Radio communications | $ 1,700 | $ 1,619 | $ 1,664 |
| Equipment rental and recoveries | 281 | 318 | 200 |
| Staff housing | 161 | 162 | 165 |
| Northern air operations | 100 | 181 | 60 |
| | 2,242 | 2,280 | 2,089 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 1,042 | 1,134 | 975 |
| Contractual services | 484 | 455 | 510 |
| Amortization | 422 | 411 | 332 |
| Materials & supplies | 274 | 366 | 233 |
| Travel & sustenance | 61 | 56 | 61 |
| Other | 8 | (5) | 7 |
| | 2,291 | 2,417 | 2,118 |
| Net (loss) (Notes 6 and 11) | $ (49) | (137) | (29) |
| Accumulated operating surplus/(deficit), beginning of year | | 97 | 126 |
| Accumulated operating (deficit)/surplus, end of year - to Statement 1 | | $ (40) | $ 97 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement 3

## RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED NET EXPENDITURE/(RECOVERY)**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Financing (provided by)/required for operating activities: | | |
| Net loss | $ 137 | $ 29 |
| Items not affecting working capital | | |
| -amortization | (412) | (331) |
| -gain/(loss) on disposal of capital assets | 40 | (11) |
| Net (decrease)/increase in working capital items related to operations (Note 7) | (158) | 507 |
| Net financing provided by operating activities | (393) | 194 |
| Financing (provided by)/required for investing activities: | | |
| Purchase of capital assets | 809 | 889 |
| Proceeds from sale of capital assets | (60) | (16) |
| Net financing required for investing activities | 749 | 873 |
| Net increase in financing requirement | 356 | 1,067 |
| Accumulated net expenditure, beginning of year | 3,119 | 2,052 |
| Accumulated net expenditure, end of year - to Statement 1 | $ 3,475 | $ 3,119 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

# RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

1. **Authority and Definition of Entity**
The Revolving Fund operates under the authority of Section 19 of *The Natural Resources Act*. The purpose of the Revolving Fund is to provide resource protection and development services.

The Department of Environment administers the Revolving Fund.

2. **Significant Accounting Policies**
The financial statements are prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. These financial statements do not present a cash flow statement because the required cash flow information is readily apparent from the Statement of Changes in Accumulated Net Expenditure and Note 7. The following accounting policies are considered significant:

a) Net Financing Requirements
The net financing requirements is the cash flow from/(to) the General Revenue Fund. It represents the total annual financing requirements resulting from net capital acquisitions, working capital changes and net cash flows from operations.

b) Accumulated Net Expenditure
The accumulated net expenditure of the Revolving Fund includes the following:

i) the net increase (decrease) in financing requirements for each fiscal year; and

ii) the book value of assets acquired at no charge from another government agency.

c) Inventories
Inventories are valued at the lower of average cost and net realizable value. Inventories consist of airplane parts and radio components.

d) Revenue recognition
Revenue is recognized when services are rendered.

e) Capital Assets
Individual capital assets costing more than $500 are capitalized. Amortization commences in the year of acquisition for Radio Communications and Northern Air Operations and amortization for Equipment Rental commences in the year following acquisition. Amortization is calculated on the straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. Annual amortization rates are from 5% to 33% for construction equipment and 8% for radio communication equipment.

3. **Authorized Financing**
Subsection 19(9) of *The Natural Resources Act* specifies that the maximum accumulated net expenditure, which may be outstanding at any time, will be set by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A maximum amount of $5,500,000 was established by Order in Council 515/94.

4. **Accumulated Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**
Treasury Board controls the operations of the Revolving Fund, in part by monitoring the amount of its accumulated operating surplus/(deficit). If the amount falls above or below the limit specified by Treasury Board, management is responsible to present a plan to address the excess surplus/(deficit) for approval by Treasury Board. Plans may include, but are not limited to, payment of excess surpluses to, or requests for additional funding from, the General Revenue Fund. Treasury Board has specified the limit for the accumulated operating surplus/(deficit) is $200,000.

5. **Capital Assets**

| | 2003 ($000's) | | | 2002 ($000's) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Book Value | Net Book Value |
| Equipment rental | $ 4,590 | $ 2,531 | $ 2,059 | $ 1,984 |
| Radio communications | 3,176 | 2,278 | 898 | 589 |
| Northern air operations | 63 | 20 | 43 | 49 |
| | $ 7,829 | $ 4,829 | $ 3,000 | $ 2,622 |

## 6. Segmented Information

| | 2003 (000's) | | | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Revenues | Expenses | Net Income/ (Loss) | Net Income/ (Loss) |
| Radio communications | $ 1,619 | $ 1,834 | $ (215) | $ 74 |
| Equipment rental | 318 | 261 | 57 | 3 |
| Staff housing | 162 | 174 | (12) | (114) |
| Northern air operations | 181 | 148 | 33 | 8 |
| | $ 2,280 | $ 2,417 | $ (137) | $ (29) |

## 7. Net Change in Working Capital Items Related to Operations

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| (Decrease)/increase in accounts receivable | $ (132) | $ 130 |
| (Decrease)/increase in inventories | (67) | 197 |
| Increase in prepaid expenses | 2 | - |
| Decrease/(increase) in accounts payable | 39 | 180 |
| | $ (158) | $ 507 |

## 8. Related Party Transactions

These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Revolving Fund is related to all Saskatchewan Crown agencies such as departments, corporations, boards and commissions under the common control of the Government of Saskatchewan. Also, the Revolving Fund is related to non-Crown enterprises that the Government jointly controls or significantly influences.

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at agreed upon rates and settled on normal trade terms. Rates charged by the Revolving Fund for services are calculated to recover costs incurred. These transactions, and amounts outstanding at year end, are as follows:

| Category | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | |
| Radio communications | $ 1,617 | $ 1,663 |
| Equipment rental and recoveries | 336 | 211 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Contractual services | 131 | 135 |
| Materials & supplies | 7 | 3 |
| Travel & sustenance | 33 | 36 |
| Accounts receivable | 76 | 188 |
| Accounts payable | 6 | 7 |

In addition, the Revolving Fund pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and notes thereto.

In accordance with established government policy, the Revolving Fund has not been charged with certain costs including occupancy, financing and certain administrative costs. These costs have been absorbed by the departmental appropriations and therefore no provision for such costs is reflected in these financial statements.

## 9. Budget

These amounts are included in the budget submitted to Treasury Board for approval. Treasury Board approves the Revolving Fund's budget annually.

**10. Financial Instruments**

The Revolving Fund's financial instruments include accounts receivable and accounts payable. Due to their immediate or short-term nature, the fair value of these instruments approximates their carrying value.

The fair value of the accumulated net expenditure has not been provided because it is not practicable to determine the fair value with sufficient reliability.

The Revolving Fund is exposed to minimal credit risk from the potential of non-payment of accounts receivable. Most receivables were received subsequent to year-end.

**11. Amount Reported in Public Accounts**

The net expenditure (recovery) of the Revolving Fund reported in Public Accounts is the net income of the Revolving Fund adjusted for the following differences in accounting policies and other adjustments between the Revolving Fund and the General Revenue Fund:

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Net (loss) income | $ (137) | $ (29) |
| Decrease (increase) in inventory | 67 | (197) |
| (Increase) in net capital assets | (378) | (531) |
| Amounts not included in Public Accounts due to timing | 43 | (43) |
| Net expenditure (recovery) reported in Public Accounts | $ (405) | $ (800) |

The **Fish and Wildlife Development Fund** (FWDF) - an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and certain hunting, trapping and fishing license fees collected by the province are transferred to the Fund. Basic expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat and management and enhancement of habitat.

**Statement 1**

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**As at March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Due from General Revenue Fund (Notes 3 and 8) | $ 3,294 | $ 4,519 |
| Accounts receivable (Notes 4 and 8) | 114 | 193 |
| | 3,408 | 4,712 |
| Capital assets (Note 5) | 16,797 | 16,198 |
| | $ 20,205 | $ 20,910 |
| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable (Note 8) | $ 385 | $ 167 |
| Net assets: | | |
| Net assets invested in capital assets | 16,797 | 16,198 |
| Internally restricted net assets (Note 6) | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Unrestricted net assets | 1,023 | 2,545 |
| | 19,820 | 20,743 |
| | $ 20,205 | $ 20,910 |

Commitments (Note 7)
(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Statement 2**

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | Budget (Note 9) | 2003 (000's) Actual | 2002 (000's) Actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | | |
| General Revenue Fund transfer (Note 4) | $ 3,360 | $ 3,197 | $ 3,301 |
| Field permits and leases | 172 | 156 | 182 |
| Interest | 170 | 102 | 151 |
| Other revenue | 9 | 58 | 78 |
| | 3,711 | 3,513 | 3,712 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Wildlife habitat projects (Schedule 1) | 2,119 | 2,028 | 1,082 |
| Fish enhancement projects (Schedule 1) | 1,903 | 2,137 | 1,323 |
| Grants-in-lieu of taxes (Note 6) | 290 | 271 | 264 |
| | 4,312 | 4,436 | 2,669 |
| Excess of expenses over revenues | $ (601) | $ (923) | $ 1,043 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Statement 3**

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | Invested in Capital Assets | Internally Restricted | 2003 (000's) Unrestricted | Total | 2002 (000's) Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Net assets: | | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of year | $ 16,198 | $ 2,000 | $ 2,545 | $ 20,743 | $ 19,700 |
| Excess of expenses over revenues | (23) | --- | (900) | (923) | 1,043 |
| Net investment in capital assets | 622 | --- | (622) | --- | --- |
| Balance, end of year (to Statement 1) | $ 16,798 | $ 2,000 | $ 1,023 | $ 19,820 | $ 20,743 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Statement 4**

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Receipts from General Revenue Fund transfer | $ 3,256 | $ 3,245 |
| Receipts from field permits and leases | 258 | 239 |
| Interest received | 79 | 151 |
| Payments to grant recipients | (1,047) | (122) |
| Payments to municipalities | (271) | (264) |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | (2,878) | (2,194) |
| | (603) | 1,055 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Proceeds from disposal of capital assets | --- | 9 |
| Purchase of capital assets | (623) | (848) |
| | (623) | (839) |
| Net increase in cash | (1,226) | 216 |
| Due from General Revenue Fund, beginning of year | 4,519 | 4,303 |
| Due from General Revenue Fund, end of year | $ 3,293 | $ 4,519 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

1. **Purpose of the Fund**
The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (Fund) operates under the authority of Section 20 of *The Natural Resources Act*. The Fund was established for the purposes of preventing the reduction of wildlife habitat and wildlife population in the agricultural area of the province and for fish enhancement projects intended to prevent the loss of fish or fish habitat. The Department of Environment administers the Fund.

2. **Significant Accounting Policies**
The financial statements are prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. The following accounting policies are considered significant:

a) Capital Assets
Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization commences in the year of acquisition and is provided on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful life. Annual rates for equipment are from 5% to 33%.

Donated land is recorded at fair value at the date of contribution as a direct increase in net assets.

The Fund entered into agreements with other conservation agencies for the joint acquisition of land for wildlife related purposes. Land jointly owned is recorded at cost at the date title is transferred to both parties. Note 5 discloses separately the Fund's cost of the jointly owned land.

b) Grant Expenses
Grant expenses are recognized when grants are approved and the recipient has met eligibility criteria.

c) Revenue
The transfer from the General Revenue Fund is recognized when certain hunting and fishing licenses are issued.

Field permit and lease revenue is recognized when the permit is issued or the lease payment is due.

3. **Due From General Revenue Fund**
The Fund's money is on deposit with the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and in a bank account included in the Consolidated Offset Bank Concentration arrangement for the Government of Saskatchewan. The Fund's earned interest is calculated and paid by the GRF on a quarterly basis to the Fund using the Government's thirty-day borrowing rate and the Fund's average daily account balance. The Government's average thirty-day borrowing rate for 2003 is 2.62% (2002 - 3.41%).

4. **Revenue - General Revenue Fund**
The annual transfer from the General Revenue Fund has been set by Order in Council 526/95 as an amount equivalent to 30% of certain hunting and fishing licence fees collected by the Department of Environment. A receivable is recorded for the portion of the revenue not received before the year-end that relates to the annual licence fees. Included in the accounts receivable at March 31, 2003 is $84,322 (2002 - $143,163) receivable from the General Revenue Fund.

5. **Capital Assets**

| | 2003 (000's) | | | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Net Book Value | Net Book Value |
| Land | $ 14,427 | $ --- | $ 14,427 | $ 14,136 |
| Land joint ownership | 2,295 | --- | 2,295 | 1,969 |
| Equipment | 522 | 447 | 75 | 93 |
| | $ 16,797 | $ 447 | $ 16,797 | $ 16,198 |

6. **Internally Restricted Net Assets - Municipal Habitat Conservation**
Internally restricted net assets were established to compensate rural municipalities for taxes forgone on lands acquired by the Fund for wildlife habitat conservation purposes. The interest earned on this amount is reported in the unrestricted fund and is used to assist in paying rural municipalities grants-in-lieu of taxes on Fund lands located within their boundaries.

7. **Commitments**
The Fund's wildlife habitat and fish enhancement project commitments at year-end, are as follows:

| | (000's) |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | $ 219 |
| 2004-05 | 171 |
| 2006-07 | --- |
| Total | $ 390 |

8. **Financial Instruments**
The Fund' s financial instruments include due from General Revenue Fund, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. The fair value of these instruments approximates their carrying value due to the immediate or short-term maturity of these financial instruments. The Fund is exposed to credit risk from the potential default of customers. However, the majority of the Fund's receivables are from other government agencies and reputable long-term corporate clients, therefore, the credit risk is minimal.

9. **Budget**
The Budget for the Fund is included with the Department of Environment's budget submission to Treasury Board. Treasury Board approves the Fund's budget annually.

10. **Related Party Transactions**
These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Fund is related to all Saskatchewan Crown agencies such as departments, corporations, boards, and commissions under the common control of the Government of Saskatchewan. Also, the Fund is related to non-Crown enterprises that the Government jointly owns or significantly influences.

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at agreed upon rates and are settled on normal trade terms. These transactions, at year-end, are as follows:

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Expenses: | | |
| Contractual services | $ 19 | $ 285 |
| Supplies and materials | 2 | 6 |
| Grants | 835 | 66 |
| CVA Rentals | 223 | 136 |
| Utilities | 71 | 66 |
| Telephone | 10 | 1 |

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and notes.

The Fund pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

In accordance with established government policy, the Fund has not been charged with certain costs including occupancy, financing, and certain administrative costs. These costs have been absorbed by various departmental appropriations and, therefore, no provision for such costs is reflected in these financial statements.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**Unaudited**

| | 2003 (000's) | | | | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Budget | Wildlife Habitat Projects | Fish Enhancement Projects | Total | Total |
| Salaries | $ 2,426 | $ 927 | $ 1,092 | $ 2,019 | $ 1,062 |
| Contractual services | 521 | 381 | 146 | 527 | 761 |
| Supplies and materials | 175 | 44 | 104 | 148 | 133 |
| Grants | 533 | 518 | 529 | 1,047 | 122 |
| CVA Rentals | 140 | 112 | 111 | 223 | 136 |
| Travel expenses | 70 | 39 | 56 | 95 | 89 |
| Utilities | 70 | --- | 71 | 71 | 66 |
| Amortization | 25 | 1 | 22 | 23 | 22 |
| Telephone | 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Communications | 55 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| | $ 4,022 | $ 2,028 | $ 2,137 | $ 4,165 | $ 2,404 |

**The Forest Fire Contingency Fund** (FFCF) was created in 2001 in order to support the government's efforts to finance the suppression of large forest fires (greater than 100 hectares in size). This fund helps stabilize the government's budgeting process by separating large fire costs from less variable regular fire program costs. Large fires result from extreme, unpredictable weather events and are frequently responsible for 60 to 80 per cent of annual fire management costs. Separating large fire costs will also make measuring regular fire program activity easier.

**Statement 1**

## FOREST FIRE CONTINGENCY FUND

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**As at March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | |
| Assets: | | |
| Due from General Revenue Fund (Notes 3 and 4) | $ - | $ 33,995 |
| | $ - | $ 33,995 |
| **LIABILITIES AND NET FINANCIAL ASSETS** | | |
| Net financial assets (Statement 2) | $ - | $ 33,995 |
| | $ - | $ 33,995 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

**Statement 2**

## FOREST FIRE CONTINGENCY FUND

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS**
**For the Year Ended March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

| | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | |
| General Revenue Fund transfer | $ - | $ 40,000 |
| | - | 40,000 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Aircraft Rental | 10,206 | 1,834 |
| Wages and Benefits | 9,761 | 1,602 |
| Equipment Rental | 6,133 | 1,117 |
| Materials and Supplies | 3,881 | 553 |
| Other Contractual Services | 2,092 | 423 |
| Aviation Fuel | 1,528 | 379 |
| Travel and Sustenance | 390 | 95 |
| Miscellaneous | 4 | 2 |
| | 33,995 | 6,005 |
| Excess of (expenses over revenues) revenues over expenses | 33,995 | 33,995 |
| Net financial assets, beginning of year | 33,995 | - |
| Net financial assets, end of year - to Statement 1 | $ - | $ 33,995 |

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

# FOREST FIRE CONTINGENCY FUND
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**March 31, 2003**
**(Unaudited)**

1. **Purpose of the Fund**
Section 8.1 of *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982* established The Forest Fire Contingency Fund (Fund) effective April 1, 2001. The Fund was established for the purposes of financing the expenses related to fighting wildfires in excess of 100 hectares in area. The Department of Environment administers the Fund. The Department charges the Fund all costs of fighting escaped fires including the costs that were incurred before the fire escaped.

2. **Significant Accounting Policies**
The financial statements are prepared using Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The following accounting policy is considered significant:

Revenue

Revenue is recognized when grant amounts are transferred from the General Revenue Fund and eligibility criteria have been met.

3. **Due From General Revenue Fund**
The Fund's money is on deposit with the General Revenue Fund (GRF). The Fund does not receive any interest from money on deposit with the GRF.

4. **Financial Instruments**
The fair value of the Fund's financial instrument, due from General Revenue Fund, approximates its carrying value due to the immediate and short- term nature of this financial instrument.

5. **Related Party Transactions**
These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Fund is related to all Saskatchewan Crown agencies such as departments, corporations, boards and commissions under the common control of the Government of Saskatchewan. Also, the Fund is related to non-Crown enterprises that the Government jointly controls or significantly influences.

Routine operating transactions with related parties are recorded at agreed upon rates and are settled on normal trade terms. These transactions, for the year, are as follows:

| Expenses: | 2003 (000's) | 2002 (000's) |
|---|---|---|
| Other Contractual Services | $ 209 | $ 271 |
| Travel and Sustenance | 135 | - |
| Materials and Supplies | 23 | 5 |
| Equipment Rental | 1 | - |
| | $ 368 | $ 276 |

The Fund pays Provincial Sales Tax to the Saskatchewan Department of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

Other transactions with related parties and amounts due to/from them are described separately in the financial statements and notes.

In accordance with established government policy, the Fund has not been charged with certain costs including occupancy, financing, and certain administrative costs. These costs have been absorbed by various departmental appropriations and, therefore, no provision for such costs is reflected in these financial statements.

6. **Cash Flow Statement**
A cash flow statement has not been provided since cash flow information is readily apparent from these financial statements.

# Plan for 2003-2004 and Beyond

## Overview of Plan for 2003-04 and Beyond

The purpose of the annual report is not only to review the past, but also to look ahead. This section provides some background, identifies some of the challenges and opportunities ahead and lays out our plans for the future.

Saskatchewan Environment's sustainable development approaches require the commitment and participation of all societal groups (Aboriginal groups, industry, governments, education institutions, non-government organizations and individuals). Saskatchewan Environment also recognizes that effective environmental stewardship requires good relations with stakeholders and the public. Saskatchewan Environment uses processes of co-management, partnership and public involvement to ensure that decisions on environmental issues are well informed by a wide range of community, economic and individual concerns.

Public involvement allows the department to engage the public, stakeholders, First Nations and Metis in the decision-making processes used in planning, policy-making, and program development and delivery. Public involvement is also used to encourage awareness and understanding; request information; obtain opinions to be used in the decision-making process; improve and build the relationship between the department and other parties and/or to work with one or more parties to achieve a common goal.

This performance plan builds on the plan released to the public in our 2002-03 Annual Report. The strategic goals and objectives of the performance plan are long term and have remained unchanged, but depending on the results achieved in the past years and resources available in the current year, the key actions to achieve the strategic goals and objectives will change every year.

The SE's 2003-04 performance plan is an evolving document. Some of the performance measures are still under development and further refinement as more accurate information and data becomes available, and or new science is developed.

The Department is also working with third parties like the SARCAN and other industries for enabling and enhancing recycling of recoverable materials like the beverage containers and scrap tires, used oil, and other similar materials.

## Plan at a Glance

The purpose of this section is to provide a summary of the department's strategic goals, objectives and performance measures to allow the readers to review the entire plan in summary form.

Saskatchewan Environment views the basic components (air, water, land and organisms, including humans) and functions of ecosystems in a broad context that integrates environmental, social and economic concerns. Ecosystems consist of communities of humans, animals, plants and micro-organisms interacting with each other and with the non-living elements of their environment. We believe that science-based management of ecological systems and human activities will maintain the health and integrity of an ecosystem for all species, including humans. A key component of this approach is inclusiveness - we can achieve better and more lasting decisions by working co-operatively with those who have an interest in the resource.

Below is a summary of our performance plan for 2003-04 and beyond. The strategic goals and objectives of the plan demonstrate the outcomes Saskatchewan Environment is pursuing over the long term to realize the department's vision. The performance measures are the means by which Saskatchewan Environment intends to measure its progress towards achieving its strategic goals and objectives.

## Vision

A high quality environment and healthy ecosystems in perpetuity, which sustain social, health and economic well being for Saskatchewan citizens.

## Goal 1 - Clean and Healthy Environment

Objective 1: Clean Water
1.1: Safe Municipal Drinking Water

**Performance Measure:**

- Number of people served with water meeting minimum provincial treatment requirements (this objective and measure is reported on in the more detailed "State of the Water Report" to be issued in July 2003).

Objective 1: Clean Water
1.2: Good Quality Surface and Ground Water

**Performance Measure:**

- Water Quality Index (WQI) Number of watersheds with a rating of good or better water quality using the WQI.

Objective 2: Clean Air

**Performance Measure:**

- Per cent of time the rating from the Air Pollution Index was good to excellent in Regina and Saskatoon based on an annual average

Objective 3: Clean Land

**Performance Measures:**

- Per cent of scrap tires recycled
- Per cent of beverage containers recycled
- Per cent of pesticide containers recycled
- Per cent of used oil recycled
- Per cent of oil filters recycled
- Per cent of oil containers recycled
- Per cent of mines with financial assurance, decommissioning and reclamation plans in place
- Number of known high-risk contaminated sites

Objective 4: Minimize Risks and Adverse Impact of Wildland Fires on People, Property and Natural Resources

**Performance Measures:**

- Per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less
- Per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are greater than 100 hectares

## Goal 2 - Ecosystem Health and Natural Abundance Of Renewable Resources

Objective 5: Species and Habitat at Risk are Protected

**Performance Measure**:
- Number of hectares protected in a representative area network

Objective 6: Biodiversity and Ecosystems are Sustained

**Performance Measure**:
- Under development

## Goal 3 - Fair Opportunity for Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources

Objective 7: Equitable Allocation of Natural Renewable Resources

**Performance Measure**:
- Number of Hectares of Crown Land under Integrated Land Use Plans

Objective 8: Accessible Recreation and Educational Opportunities on Provincial Park and Crown Resource Lands

**Performance Measures**:
- Number of provincial park visits
- Per cent of survey respondents indicating satisfaction with their park experience

Objective 9: Increased Economic Benefits Based on Sustainable Use of Natural Renewable Resources

**Performance Measures**:
- Dollar value of commercial fishing
- Number of tonnes of aquaculture production
- Dollar value of aqualculture production
- Dollar value of forestry products shipped?
- Dollar value of economic activity generated from outdoor activities
- Dollar value of economic activity generated from sport fishing

Objective 10: First Nations and Metis Rights and Their Interests in the Use of Natural Resources are met Through Cooperative Means

**Performance Measures**:
- Number of functional cooperative relationships with First Nations and Metis organizations
- Per cent of infractions under the *The Fisheries Act* and *The Saskatchewan Wildlfe Act* that were addressed using an alternative measure intervention

## 2003-04 Budget Overview

Saskatchewan Environment will spend $139.7 million in 2003-04 to deliver its programs and services throughout the province. This budget is allocated to Saskatchewan Environment's programs as shown in the table below.

The breakdown of budget estimates includes:

| | **2003-04 Budget** (in $000's) |
|---|---|
| Administration | 6,973 |
| Accommodation and Central Services | 6,305 |
| Operations | 33,415 |
| Forest Ecosystems | 13,549 |
| Fire Management and Forest Protection | 37,285 |
| Environmental Assessment | 962 |
| Environmental Protection | 12,098 |
| Water Management and Protection | 9,371 |
| Sustainable Land Management | 1,610 |
| Fish and Wildlife | 4,440 |
| Fish and Wildlife Development Fund | 3,400 |
| Parks and Special Places | 8,528 |
| Policy and Public Involvement | 1,807 |
| Total | 139,743 |

Transfers to third parties for 2003-04 are budgeted as follows:

| | (In $000's) |
|---|---|
| Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System | 9,860 |
| Saskatchewan Watershed Authority | 6,846 |
| Fish and Wildlife Development Fund | 3,400 |
| Meewasin Valley Authority | 814 |
| Wakamow Valley Authority | 139 |
| Wascana Centre Authority | 2,700 |
| Swift Current Chinook Parkway | 86 |
| Regional Parks | 75 |
| Support for Environmental Programs | 234 |
| Total | 24,154 |

Saskatchewan Environment is also responsible for collecting over $46 million in revenue for the General Revenue Fund, with the majority of this revenue coming from environmental handling charges, forestry dues and fees and angling and hunting license sales.

## Trends and Issues

Significant new developments and emerging issues that directly or indirectly impact on the department's plan since last year include:

Much higher profile of climate change issues. Canada has ratified Kyoto.

- Saskatchewan Environment is working with other partners, like Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, on climate change impact research and other strategies.

High expectations for implementation of the government's water strategy.

- Saskatchewan Environment has created a new Water Section with additional staff to implement the province's Drinking Water Strategy.

Establishment of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is now responsible for protecting, conserving and managing the surface and ground water resources of the province. In future Saskatchewan Environment and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will be working closely with other partners to ensure the safety and quality of water sources in the province.

United States measures around softwood lumber.

- The soft wood lumber trade dispute with the US has impacted on the province's lumber exports, resulting in reduced sale revenues from the forestry products in the province.

Transfer of Urban Parks to Saskatchewan Environment.

- The responsibility to administer the Urban Parks program was transferred to Saskatchewan Environment in 2003. This is reflected in some additional key actions in the plan.

Renewed attention on northern mine contaminated sites.

- Saskatchewan Environment is negotiating with the federal government to fund the decommissioning and reclamation of the uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan.

2002 was one of the worst fire seasons on record.

- Consequently, the province spent about $112,000,000 for fire fighting in the 2002-03 fire season. Between 1995-2002 Saskatchewan Environment had to respond to four of the worst forest fire seasons for fire starts on record. There is some concern that these dry conditions may be associated withthe climate change, and consequently Saskatchewan Environment may be facing more frequent bad forest fire seasons in the future.

Saskatchewan people are satisfied with how well the environment is being managed.
Saskatchewan residents ranked environment first (61 per cent) when asked how much they approved of the way the provincial government is handling various issues.

Many of the environmental trends and issues noted in last year's plan remain valid and are noted below.

**A Clean and Healthy Environment:**

- Public interest is growing in the link between personal health and environmental contaminants.
- Drinking water quality is an issue of increasing public concern. Saskatchewan Environment leads the overall government response to the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the safety of North Battleford Inquiry on municipal drinking water.
- Air quality challenges include transboundary movement of air pollutants from Alberta and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Highly successful provincial recycling programs, new national standards for toxic substances, and processes to deal with abandoned mines and municipal wastes are reducing risks to human health and the environment. Orphaned contaminated site cleanup is being addressed through the Centenary fund.
- The incidence of escaped wildland fires is being addressed through a combination of increased emphasis on reducing the number of human-caused fires and improvements in detection that will allow resources to get to fires at smaller sizes. Saskatchewan Environment is also working with municipalities to increase their capacity to address fire starts within their area of responsibility. However, a combination of dry conditions, multiple fire starts, high winds and high fuel loads could still result in very large escaped fires that consume valuable resources and endanger lives and communities (as was the case in this past fire season).

**Ecosystem Health and Natural Abundance of Renewable Resources:**

- Of the four major ecozones in Saskatchewan, the Grassland Ecozone remains the most at risk due to the cumulative effects of extensive settlement and ongoing economic development. Concern continues to exist about pressures on shrinking native grasslands from biodiversity loss, the fragmentation and destruction of natural habitat, climate change and invasive species.
- The boreal forest zone is undergoing increased forestry development. Public expectations for sustainable use of the forest resource are high.
- In addition to the current 15 species designated as at risk, the status of 32 additional species is under review.
- The department is now reviewing public comments on a government-wide Biodiversity Action Plan to manage issues related to biodiversity conservation, species protection, and sustainable use of resources.
- Conservation of existing native habitats and threat management is key to biodiversity protection. Saskatchewan Environment along with many local and national conservation organizations is involved with many native habitat conservation and management programs. The highest profile of these is the Representative Areas Network (RAN) program. While the network continues to grow, additions are still necessary in order to ensure adequate representation of the range of ecosystems and biodiversity in the province.

**Fair Opportunity for Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources:**

- The supply of renewable natural resources is subject to cycles of abundance and scarcity due to a number of factors, such as natural population fluctuations, weather, over-harvesting, enforcement capabilities, and other human and natural causes over which Saskatchewan Environment often has limited influence. Most natural fish and wildlife populations are in sufficient numbers to satisfy current subsistence, recreational and commercial users.
- Affordable access to provincial parks remains a public expectation. The number of annual visitors has remained around 2.3 million.

Some parks come under heavier pressure from use.

- The challenge for Saskatchewan Environment is to maintain the natural and heritage values of these parks while meeting visitor demands for enhanced services.
- The demand for access to provincial renewable natural resources for economic developments, such as forestry, commercial fishing, outfitting, ecotourism, and agroforestry is increasing. Saskatchewan Environment's challenge is to satisfy these demands within the sustainable capacity of the resource base.
- As the Aboriginal population of the province increases and exercises its constitutional rights, access and use of fish and wildlife will grow. Saskatchewan Environment's challenge is to ensure these rights are met within the sustainable resource use constraints.
- To minimize conflicts with the Aboriginal users of resources under Saskatchewan Environment's administration, many successful cooperative and collaborative processes have been initiated by Saskatchewan Environment and Aboriginal organizations such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS), and at the local band council level.

## Changes from 2002-03 Performance Plan

The strategic goals and objectives and associated performance measures included in Saskatchewan Environment's 2003-04 performance plan remain unchanged from those published last year except the Clean Water and Clean Air Objectives. The safe municipal drinking water objective is dealt with in depth in the separate Safe Drinking Water Strategy and associated annual report to be issued in July 2003. A "Good Quality Surface and Ground Water" objective has been retained in the 2003-04 plan. The corresponding performance measure has also been retained.

The dollar value of timber as a performance measure has been dropped because accurate data is not available in a timely manner. Similarly the dollar value of outdoor activities in the province as an economic measure has also been dropped because the data is collected through a national survey conducted every five years and thus cannot be reported annually.

The Clean Air objective's performance measure has been changed from Air Quality Index to Air Pollution Index (API) in this plan. The Air Pollution Index is based on conditions that affect air quality in the province. The API is a composite of hazardous chemical and particulate matter presence in the air at a given location over a period of time.

## Where We Are Headed, What We Intend To Do and How We Will Measure Progress

### Detailed Performance Plan

This section provides in detail Saskatchewan Environment's 2003-04 performance plan. The following are the long-term strategic goals and objectives of the plan. The key actions listed are those that Saskatchewan Environment is implementing over the one-year period covered by this plan.

Performance measures, and baseline values have been provided for many, but not all, objectives. Saskatchewan Environment continues to work on developing improved performance measures for all objectives. A key challenge is ensuring that performance measures are meaningful and useful for both management and accountability purposes.

## Goal 1 - A Clean and Healthy Environment

### Objective 1: Clean Water

#### 1.1 - Safe Municipal Drinking Water

Safe municipal drinking water is essential for human life and general health. Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for administering the legislation and regulations governing the operation and maintenance of municipal works supplying municipal drinking water to the citizens.

Key Actions

- Detailed reporting of the department's actions that support this objective are done through the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy. Environment is the lead department on this strategy.
- The initiatives planned for 2003-04 are also listed in the government-wide "Our Plan 2003-04" document. A "State of Drinking Water Report" will be released in July 2003. Readers can access these documents at:
  http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/Water_report_April_2003.pdf
  http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/Drinking%20Water%20brochure.pdf - Brochure on the Saskatchewan's Safe Drinking Water Strategy
  http://www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget/budget03/2003papers.htm - Our Plan 2003-04
  http://www.se.gov.sk.ca - A State of Drinking Water Report

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Number of people served with water meeting minimum provincial treatment requirements.*<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment sets minimum standards for drinking water treatment works; this is a measure of the population served by works, which meet these infrastructure standards; since the proclamation of EMPA 2002, Saskatchewan Environment will approve the construction of works to directly influence this measure | 812,068 people in 2002-03 |

#### 1.2 Good Quality Surface and Ground Water

Surface and ground water sources are the stock for most municipal drinking water systems, and for other uses. Therefore, good quality surface and ground water is essential for water supplies for various human and other uses.

Key Actions:

- Re-establish surface water monitoring at the primary monitoring sites to assess surface water quality.
- Develop a measure for assessment of wastewater quality and/or impacts.
- Make information available to the Saskatchewan public on ground and surface water quality.
- Participate in federal-provincial Municipal Wastewater effluents projects
- Work cooperatively with the federal government to conduct toxicity research to establish a regional water quality objective for uranium for northern Saskatchewan; add environmental effects monitoring programs to water monitoring programs at all mining operations.
- Cooperate with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Sask Water and other provincial agencies to implement the provincial water strategy.
- Apply the Water Quality Index to seven major basins in Saskatchewan to gauge aquatic protection

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Water quality index (WQI)*<br><br>The WQI is an overall measure of the quality of water for specific uses, such as for aquatic life and recreation. The WQI is a composite of different chemicals and organisms in the water at safe levels for a particular use. It is a good measure of the quality of surface or ground water. The department has little direct control over the results of this broad measure of water quality. Samples are collected by industries and municipalities in accordance with their permits, as well as by department staff and other agencies. The levels of chemicals and organisms in the samples are compared with the WQI levels for safety and health of the people. | Under development |

## Objective 2: Clean Air

Clean Air is essential for human and most other life forms. Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for administering *The Clean Air Act*, which controls most major air emissions in the province.

Key Actions:

- Expand the department's air quality monitoring capabilities to Swift Current and Prince Albert.
- Develop a public information/warning system based on air pollution levels.
- Participate in climate change research and other strategies in partnership with Saskatchewan Industry and Resources.
- Increase departmental and public understanding of air emissions.
- Review and streamline *The Clean Air Act* permitting system.
- Develop modeling (point source, long-range transport) expertise within the department.
- Implement mercury control measures for specific sectors

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Per cent of time the rating from the Air Pollution Index was good to excellent in Regina and Saskatoon based on an annual average.*<br><br>Air quality can be particularly noticeable in urban areas because of the population density. The API is a composite of chemicals and particulates in the air. Maintaining urban air quality is an important part of meeting this objective. Over the longer term we also need to better define rural air quality impacts. The department has some ability to influence air quality through its regulatory programs. Air quality is affected by smoke and dust in the air due to natural causes, and emissions from vehicles and industries. | 99 per cent in 2002 |

## Objective 3: Clean Land

Clean land is essential for human health and safe production of food. Land contaminated with hazardous materials can also contribute to the pollution of water and air through erosion by water and wind when surface water runoffs enters water bodies and particulates are carried by the wind.

Key Actions:

- Clean up high risk contaminated sites (e.g., Woodland Campus, Inland Steel and North Petroleum Refinery sites), and approximately thirty additional orphaned petroleum storage sites.
- Negotiate federal-provincial agreements for the clean up of abandoned northern uranium mine sites, and assist Saskatchewan Northern Affairs in arranging for the completion of immediate site safety improvement activities at the abandoned Gunnar uranium mine site.
- Develop and maintain decommissioning and reclamation plans and financial assurances for mining operations.
- Promote the 4-R's and prepare and distribute public information materials supporting waste minimization. Increase financial support for SARCAN.
- Promote regional waste management systems using Centenary Funding.
- Develop a provincial municipal solid waste management strategy.
- Implement mid-year status reporting for third party stewardship agencies regulated by the department.
- Develop and implement a database to track landfills and associated regulatory activities.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Per cent of scrap tires recycled*<br><br>The number of scrap tires recycled is a waste minimization indicator. Scrap tires cause problems at landfills. They can be re-used to manufacture a number of commodities. The department administers the enabling regulations for this third party stewardship program for the management of scrap tires. Market conditions determine the recycling rates. SE has no direct influence on the rate. | 59 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Per cent of beverage containers recycled*<br><br>Beverage container recycling is a waste minimization indicator. Beverage containers represent a litter control challenge and a resource conservation opportunity. The department administers the enabling regulations for this third party stewardship program. SE has no direct influence on the rate. | 89 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Per cent of pesticide containers recycled*<br><br>The number of pesticide containers recycled is a waste minimization indicator as well as an indicator of how well we are protecting our environment from potential chemical contamination. The department does not have direct regulatory control or influence of this external voluntary industry based program now in place to manage pesticide containers. | 64 per cent in 2002-03 |

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Per cent of used oil recycled*<br><br>The volume of used oil recycled is a waste minimization indicator and an indicator of how well we are protecting the environment from waste dangerous goods. The department administers the enabling regulations for this third party stewardship program. SE has no direct influence on the rate. | 77 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Percent of oil filters recycled*<br><br>The number of oil filters recycled is a waste minimization indicator. The department administers the enabling regulations for this third party stewardship program. SE has no direct influence on the rate. | 82 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Per cent of used oil containers*<br><br>The number of used oil containers recycled is a waste minimization indicator. The department administers the enabling regulations for this third party stewardship program. SE has no direct influence on the rate. | 20 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Per cent of mines with financial assurances, decommissioning and reclamation plans in place*<br><br>Properly reclaimed mining sites impact the clean land objective directly by returning the site to its original natural state. Mining companies are required to have decommissioning plans and financial assurances in place to ensure that they do not place a burden on Saskatchewan taxpayers should they fail to meet their decommissioning and reclamation obligations. The department directly regulates the environmental aspects of mining operations. SE has direct control and influence over this measure. | Decommissioning/reclamation plans - 85 per cent in 2002-03<br><br>Financial assurance - 71 per cent in 2002-03 |
| *Number of known high-risk contaminated sites*<br><br>Contaminated sites indicate the condition of our land resources. High risk contaminated sites are those that pose a health hazard to humans and to the ecosystems due to the presence of dangerous chemicals in the ground.<br>The department's involvement may stem from the direct regulation of industrial operations, response to spill events or directing clean up of contaminated sites in accordance with funding provided by the Centenary Fund initiative. Anticipated new standards for petroleum-related contaminants could impact on the number of sites considered to be "polluted".<br>The department has influence in the remedial aspects of new accidental contamination of land. The remediation of abandoned sites is dependent on cooperation of the involved parties and financial resources available. | 3 sites in 2002-03 |

## Objective 4: Minimize Risks and Adverse Impact of Wildland Fires on People, Property and Natural Resources

Wildland fires pose a threat to people, property and natural resources, particularly in the Northern Forest areas. It is Saskatchewan Environment's mandate to minimize these risks.

Key Actions:

- Continue to deliver and maintain an effective, cost-efficient wildland fire management system and capacity, and investigate renewal of the water bomber fleet.
- Pursue innovative approaches resulting in the renewal of the major infrastructure pieces that support the forest fire program, ensuring that program capacity is maintained or improved to address severe forest fire events. This work may stretch over several years.
- Work with other government agencies and municipalities to implement wildland fire prevention strategies within their jurisdiction in the north and the forest fringe areas.
- Develop and deliver a public awareness campaign to prevent forest fires from starting.
- Review *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982*, identifying those parts requiring adjustment.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Per cent of fires in the full response zone contained to 10 hectares or less*<br><br>The percentage of contained fires is a measure of how well the pre-planning, detection and initial attack components of the program are performing in concert. Containing fires to small sizes will minimize the number of communities threatened by fire as well as reduce the area burned. Success depends on a number of factors: analysis of the landscape and its vulnerability to fire starts (e.g., moisture levels, wind speed and direction, fuel type), effective planning to pre-position resources in areas where fire might be expected, ease of access to the location of the fire, topography of fire location, early detection of fires, rapid/effective initial attack and quick reliable support from aircraft. | 84.5 per cent in 2002.<br><br>The five year average for 1998-2002 is 89.8 percent. |
| *Per cent of escaped fires in the full response zone that are larger than 100 hectares.*<br><br>Escaped fires are an unavoidable occurrence in forest fire programs. Uncontrollable circumstances such as poor detection conditions; multiple fire starts; dry, windy burning conditions, the volatility of the fuel, proximity to resources to allow for successful initial attack; topography; and the time of the year can all combine to create conditions that allow fires to grow beyond 100 hectares. Resources to suppress fires escalate as the fire line grows, so costs also grow quickly. | 7.1 percent in 2002.<br><br>The five years average for 1998-2002 is 4.2 per cent. |

## Goal 2 - Ecosystem Health and Natural Abundance of Renewable Resources

### Objective 5: Species and Habitat at Risk are Protected

Due to human activities, ecosystems and the species of fauna and flora within them are currently at risk or have been lost. It is important that human activities do not cause the loss of ecosystem health or integrity.

Key Actions:

- Continue to work to complete the representative area network (RAN) to represent the province's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Develop and implement policies, guidelines and ecosystem management plans for selected protected areas including provincial parks.
- Identification of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species (RTES) in order to understand distribution, abundance and habitat requirements.
- Use knowledge of habitat requirements to identify key forest attributes addressed in forest management planning.
- Draft a paper on using RTES as indicators of forest health in the forest health monitoring program.
- Complete a risk analysis for the harvest of wild plants and develop a policy to sustainable manage harvest within an ecosystem context.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network [RAN]*<br><br>Adequate amount and distribution of natural/native habitats under the RAN ensures that terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems persist into the future and serve as a benchmark against which we can monitor the effectiveness of environmental stewardship across the broader landscape.<br><br>Natural landscapes with representative fauna and flora unique to a given natural ecoregion are selected by the department for designation as a representative ecological site for inclusion in the RAN. All contributing lands are counted including those of government and non-government partners. The RAN program is striving to ensure an adequate percentage of representation by all natural ecoregion of the province.<br><br>SE has direct site designating and management influence over this measure | 5,750,000 hectares in 2002-03. |

## Objective 6: Biodiversity and Ecosystems are Sustained

Biodiversity is essential for preserving the health and diversity of living things that form the web of life on earth, including human life. Similarly the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that sustain biodiversity are essential for keeping our air, water and land safe and healthy.

Key Actions:

- Support development and implementation for the next five-year Prairie Conservation Action Plan that addresses biodiversity concerns in the Prairie Ecozone.
- Initiate development of a provincial invasive exotic species strategy.
- Complete the provincial "Biodiversity Action Plan" approval process.
- Develop standard methods to assess ecosystem health and integrity including degree of human activity.
- Continue to administer environmental assessment processes to support objectives of sustainable development.
- Select Natural Range of Variation (NRV) attributes for provincial NRV standards and guidelines, set NRV targets, and assure compliance to NRV targets in forest management.
- Complete a risk analysis for the harvest of wild plants and develop a discussion paper to examine the policy and legislative needs to sustainably manage harvest within an ecosystem context.
- Set targets based on NRV and assure compliance to targets.
- Implement a forest health monitoring program based on non-disturbed forest stands and disturbed stands to confirm NRV attributes or targets.
- Implement a forestry inventory program to ensure sustainable forests in the province.
- Ensure the representative areas established across the Saskatchewan forest lands permit adequate benchmarking for the provincial sustainable forestry program.
- Develop proposal to enhance landscapes and habitats along Highway # 11, and partner with SaskPower for planting 5,000,000 trees in the north.
- Release the provincial State of the Environment Report in April 2003.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *under development*<br><br>The department is working to identify potential indicators relating to health/integrity of natural/native habitats that can be reported on a timely and consistent basis. | Under development |

## Goal 3 - Fair Opportunity For Sustainable Use and Enjoyment of Natural Resources

### Objective 7: Equitable Allocation of Natural Renewable Resources

Various groups and interests demand access to the renewable natural resources managed by the department. Saskatchewan Environment ensures an equitable allocation of these resources among various competing groups and interests to satisfy various social and economic needs.

Key Actions:

- Review Great Sand Hills land use plan.
- Continue the development of Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUP) for Crown resource land and provincial forest land:
  - Athabasca
  - Pinehouse Dipper
  - North Central
  - Nisbet (approximately 10 million hectares)
- Continued implementation and monitoring of completed plans.
  - Amisk Atik
  - La Ronge
  - Prince Albert Model Forest
  - Pasquia Porcupine
  - Manitou
- Monitor status of harvested populations (e.g., fish, ungulates, and forests) and manage resources for long-term sustainability.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Number of hectares of Crown Land under Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUP)*<br><br>Integrated Land Use Planning is an ecosystem-based tool that links the environment, the community, and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources. The process brings together a large variety of interests in order to ensure that a fair opportunity exists for the sustainable use and enjoyment of the natural resources. The unification of the many varied interests through the ILUP process requires time, commitment, a high level of participation and money. Any influences that adversely affect any of these four key components will result in at least a degree of loss of control or influence over the measure. | 2,599,700 hectares in 2002-03 |

## Objective 8: Accessible Recreation and Educational Opportunities on Provincial Park and Crown Resource Lands

Crown lands and provincial parks are public assets administered by Saskatchewan Environment for public use. This objective ensures fair access to the public to parks and Crown lands for recreation and nature education opportunities.

Key Actions:

- Complete Centenary capital projects and continue upgrade of basic provincial park land capital facilities (including projects such as Nature Centre replacement at Duck Mountain, interpretive trails and an amphitheatre at Greenwater Lake, enhanced displays and facilities at Fort Carlton, canoe route/portage in Lac La Ronge Provincial Park, upgrading the Cumberland House Historic Park, and various recreation sites across the province.
- Implement provincial park forest/vegetation rejuvenation initiative.
- Complete a revenue strategy for provincial parks and begin its implementation.
- Complete and implement provincial park land cottage policy review.
- Assess capacity for additional cottage development in provincial parks and on Crown lands. Initiate review of Urban Park Authority funding and initiate legislation review.
- Enhance resource management messages and aboriginal people perspectives in park interpretive programs.
- Continue/expand upon collaborative and partnership arrangements.
- Continue provincial park initiatives to encourage out of province tourism and retain Saskatchewan tourism.
- Increase funding to the Wascana Centre, Meewasin Valley, Wakamaw Valley Authorities, and Chinook Parkway by 10 per cent, and provide these and urban parks in North Battleford, Prince Albert and Weyburn access to $500,000 from the Centenary Fund.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Number of provincial park visitors*<br><br>Number of visits to provincial park lands is a measure of park access and popularity. Tracking this number helps Saskatchewan Environment evaluate the success of its park policies and related programs.<br><br>Except for the weather conditions influencing park visits, Saskatchewan Environment has indirect influence on the access to provincial parks through park fees schedules and recreation opportunities provided. | 2,318,700 visitors in 2002-03 |
| *Per cent of survey respondents indicating satisfaction with their park visit*<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment provides access to natural and cultural areas and recreational facilities and services in our provincial parks. Park visitor level of satisfaction assesses, from the visitor's perspective, the results of these activities.<br><br>The survey question is " Overall how satisfied are you with your park visit?" The respondents are asked to indicate their satisfaction level on a scale of 1 to 6 ranging between "very satisfied" to "very unsatisfied".<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment's parks-related programs and facilities directly influence visitor satisfaction. | 80 per cent in 2000-01. No survey conducted in 2002.<br><br>SaskTourism is assisting Saskatchewan Environment to allow the insertion of appropriate questions to assess park visitor satisfaction levels in future through an omnibus survey.<br><br>Starting in 2003, the park visit satisfaction surveys will be conducted every three years with the cooperation of SaskTourism. Therefore, results will not be reported annually. |

## Objective 9: Increased Economic Benefits Based on Sustainable Use of Natural Renewable Resources

Saskatchewan Environment is required to create a balance between its protection and conservation of provincial renewable natural resources and economic development of the province. This objective speaks to that balanced approach to managing the province's renewable natural resources.

Key Actions:

- Monitor sustainable use of harvestable populations.
- Continue development of the Saskatchewan Forestry Centre to improve technology transfer and information management within the Saskatchewan forest sector.
- Assess major commercial fish stocks with hydro acoustic program.
- Complete negotiations of Term Supply License and Forest Management Areas to cover expanded wood supply allocations.
- Complete an updated forest inventory of forest lands in the northwest, which are now available for economic development.
- Initiate the measurement of productivity of lake systems to sustain sport and commercial fishing activities by the completion of productivity assessments of legacy lakes.
- Obtain certification of the Saskatchewan Forestry Program under the ISO 14001 Standards to increase the competitive advantages of operating in the Saskatchewan forest sector.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Dollar value of forestry products shipped*<br><br>Forestry is an important economic activity in the province, which must be managed in a sustainable manner. Economic impact of forestry in the province is a measure of its contribution to the provincial economy.<br><br>The dollar value of the forest production depends on market and trade conditions. Saskatchewan Environment has no influence over this measure. | $884,000,000 in 2001. The value for 2002 is not available.<br><br>Since the department has no influence over this measure it may be changed in the future. |
| *a. Dollar value of commercial fishing*<br><br>*b. Dollar value of aquaculture production*<br><br>*c. Number of tonnes of aquaculture production*<br><br>Revenue to commercial fishers, volume and value of aquaculture production contribute to the economy of the province.<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over this measure for commercial fishing through designation and assigning catch quotas for commercial fishing sites, and for aquaculture through evaluation and approval of proposals from the industry.<br><br>Factors such as market conditions, weather, forest fires, and job changes by fishers affect the above performance measures. | $5,333,062 was the value of commercial fishing in 2001-02<br><br>$4.61 million was the aquaculture value in 2002 (latest available data)<br><br>914 tonnes of aquaculture was the production in 2002 (latest available data)<br><br>The above data has a lag-time of more than one year. |

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Dollar value of economic activity generated from sports fishing*<br><br>Revenues to commercial fishers, volume and value of aquaculture production contribute to the economy of the province.<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment has some influence over these activities through fishing regulations.<br><br>Factors like the weather, and sport fishing quotas affect sports fishing in the province. | $118 million - sports fishing in 2000 (latest available data)<br><br>There is a lag-time of two to three years for the data availability. Therefore, cannot report progress annually. |

## Objective 10: First Nations and Metis Rights and Their Interests in the Use of Natural Resources are Met Through Cooperative Means

The First Nation and Metis people have certain recognized rights and interests in the renewable natural resources administered by Saskatchewan Environment. This objective articulates Saskatchewan Environment's commitment for ensuring that the conflictingfulfillment of demands between these rights and interests and other societal needs are met in a cooperative manner.

Key Actions:

- Increase number of active Saskatchewan Environment relationships with First Nations and Métis groups.
- Facilitate Treaty Land Entitlement selections.
- Work with First Nations on Community Policing to develop protocol for enforcing environmental laws on reserve.

| What are we measuring? | Where are we starting from? |
|---|---|
| *Number of cooperative relationships with First Nations and Metis groups*<br><br>Saskatchewan Environment and Aboriginal organizations are collaborating to create arrangements that result in benefits to the ecosystem, sustainable resource-based economic developments and improved consultation and Aboriginal involvement in decision making.<br><br>A functional cooperative relationship with a First Nation organization means a formal (written) or informal (oral) agreement of cooperation, regular face-to-face meetings to address issues at hand or to develop mutually beneficial natural resource management policies.<br><br>The department has direct influence over these relationships through ability to establish formal agreements, and/or through addressing controversial resource management issues by face-to-face discussions. | 83 in 2002-03. |

**What are we measuring?**

*Per cent of infractions under the The Fisheries Act and The Saskatchewan Wildlfe Act that were addressed using an alternative measure intervention*

Per cent of individual cases where alternative measures have been successfully applied with Aboriginal people is also an indicator of our relationship-building efforts.

The alternative measures means methods used other than legal court proceedings to address individual infraction of provincial hunting or fishing regulations. The use of alternative measure intervention is available to anyone involved in such cases.

The application of the alternative measure intervention is dependent on the mutual agreement between the department and the other party to use the process.

The department has limited influence over this measure.

**Where are we starting from?**

20 per cent in 2002-03 (an estimated five out of a total of 25 applications of alternative measures)

## Where to Obtain Additional Information

If you have any questions or comments about the plan,
Or would like additional copies, we invite you to call:

Riaz Ahmed at (306) 787-1521
or Saskatchewan Environment's Inquiry Centre (306) 787-2700
toll free in Saskatchewan: 1-800-567-4224

or visit us online at:
http://www.se.gov.sk.ca

for information such as:

- 2003 Anglers Guide
- 2003 Hunter' and Trappers' Guide
- 2003 Parks Guide
- State of the Environment reports
- and much more!

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Administered Legislation

The department derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- *The Clean Air Act* protects Saskatchewan's air quality by regulating emissions which originate in the province.
- *The Conservation Easements Act* encourages private landowners, conservation organizations and governments to protect ecologically sensitive lands and natural areas through voluntary agreements.
- *The Ecological Reserves Act* protects unique, natural ecosystems and landscape features through the designation of Crown land as ecological reserves.
- *The Environmental Assessment Act* provides a mechanism for requiring and undertaking impact assessment and evaluation. Ministerial approval is required before a proponent may proceed with a development, and terms and conditions may be imposed on the approval to mitigate impacts.
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* protects the air, land and water resources of the province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances.
- *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994* enables sustainable management of fisheries resources by affirming provincial ownership of fish, creating a provincial licensing system, and regulating allocation of fish resources, fish marketing, aquaculture, sport fishing and commercial fishing.
- *The Forest Resources Management Act* allows the department to implement a new framework for sustainably managing Saskatchewan's forest resources.
- *The Grasslands National Park Act* ratifies and validates the Grasslands National Park Agreement and allows the province to transfer land to the federal government for inclusion in the Grasslands National Park.
- *The Litter Control Act* makes littering an offence and provides for the establishment and administration of a deposit refund system for various beverage containers.
- *The Natural Resources Act* (subject to OC 208/96) establishes the province's mandate to manage, protect, conserve and develop renewable resources in a sustainable manner.
- *The Parks Act, 1997* provides authority for the management, administration and disposition of park land and park land reserves.
- *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982* provides for the prevention, detection and suppression of prairie and forest fires originating in provincial forests, parks and on unoccupied Crown lands. It also governs compensation for conscripted fire fighters and authorizes establishment and regulation of fire bans and burning permit areas.
- *The Provincial Lands Act* creates authority for the management and transfer of Crown lands.
- *The Regional Parks Act, 1979* allows the Minister to assist local governments and agencies in establishing regional parks and agencies to increase availability of parks to the public.
- *The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act* gives Cabinet the ability to place conditions on the transfer or lease of lands listed in a schedule to this Act.
- *The State of the Environment Report Act* provides for public accountability in reporting of environmental conditions and activities through the preparation and release of a State of the Environment Report every two years.
- *The Water Appeal Board Act* establishes the Water Appeal Board and enables the board to hear appeals regarding water, sewage and drainage issues.
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998* provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife resources through the issuance and revocation of licences, the prosecution of wildlife offenses and the establishment of annual hunting seasons.
- *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife lands and wildlife by preventing the sale and alteration of certain Crown lands.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority are:

- *The Conservation and Development Act*
- *The Ground Water Conservation Act*
- *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*
- *The Water Power Act*
- *The Watershed Associations Act*

# Appendix B - Organization Chart


MINISTER
SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT
DEPUTY MINISTER
SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENT
SASK WATERSHED AUTHORITY
President
Develops and implements water management and stewardship programs and services to protect source water, aquifers and watersheds, conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and reduce degradation of surface and groundwater supplies
CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION
Provides corporate planning, human resource, financial, information management and administrative services
Information Management
Co-ordinates the management and development of the department's information databases and technology
Corporate Development Unit
Provides corporate direction on financial and human resource policy as well as organizational and staff development, internal audit, occupational health and risk management
Service Bureaus
Provides services related to human resource consulting, in year budget consulting, payrolls, benefits, revenues, space, inventory purchasing and vehicles
POLICY AND ASSESSMENT
Co-ordination of policy and assessment processes with department planning, programs and activities
Environmental Assessment
Reviews and evaluates environmental impacts of proposed developments
Policy and Legislation
Co-ordinates strategic planning, policy development, legislative changes and ecosystem-based planning
Public Involvement & Aboriginal Affairs
Provides leadership in Aboriginal affairs, public involvement and intergovernmental affairs
PROGRAMS
Integrates program development, implementation and evaluation with a focus on ecosystem management and regional program delivery
Forest Ecosystems
Develops and manages integrated sustainable forest resource management programs and services
Parks & Special Places
Develops and manages programs and policies for provincial and regional parks and provides capital facility management and development services
Environmental Protection
Ensures province's environmental objectives are met. Sets standards and monitors compliance with environmental regulations, inspects and regulates high risk activities
Sustainable Land Management
Co-ordinates, administers and develops land use planning initiatives, activities and dispositions, resource land management policies and the department's Treaty Land Entitlement Program
Fish and Wildlife
Develops and manages sustainable fish and wildlife programs and policies
COMMUNICATION SERVICES
Co-ordinates strategic communications
OPERATIONS DIVISION
Provides delivery of integrated resource management and environmental protection programs
Enforcement & Compliance
Provides co-ordination of conservation environmental and resource management enforcement
Fire Management and Forest Protection
Provides and co-ordinates forest fire management activities and policies
Shield EcoRegion
Provides regional delivery of resource management and environmental protection programs
Regional Services
Provides policy and regulatory support services to Regional Operations
East Boreal EcoRegion
Provides regional delivery of resource management and environmental protection programs
West Boreal EcoRegion
Provides regional delivery of resource management and environmental protection programs
Grassland EcoRegion
Provides regional delivery of resource management and environmental protection programs
Parkland EcoRegion
Provides regional delivery of resource management and environmental protection programs

## Appendix C - Key Partners and Stakeholders

The organizations listed below are considered Environment's primary partners/stakeholders because they:

- are provincial in scope,
- have a significant impact on the environment or natural resources,
- are involved in major current issues or maintain a long-term relationship with the department.

- Association of Saskatchewan Urban Park and Conservation Agencies
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors (CAGC)
- Cameco
- Canadian Bankers' Association
- Canadian Forest Service
- Canadian Heritage River System Board
- Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
- Canadian Plains Research Center
- Canoe Saskatchewan
- Cigar Lake Mining
- Cogema Resources Inc.
- Communities of Tomorrow
- Council of Saskatchewan Forest Industries
- Consumer's Co-operative/New Grade Upgrader
- Crop Protection Institute of Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Ecotourism Society
- Enbridge Inc.
- Environment Canada
- Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan
- Federal/Provincial Park Council
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Green Lake Metis Wood Products Ltd.
- Heritage Canada
- Husky Oil
- Interprovincial Pipeline
- IPSCO
- Kalium Canada
- Kitsaki Development Corp. Ltd.
- L & M Wood Products Limited
- Meadow Lake OSB Partnership
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council
- Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and MNS Regions
- Millar Western Industries Ltd.
- Mistik Management Ltd.
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (Saskatchewan Division)
- Nature Saskatchewan
- NorSask Forest Products Ltd.
- North West Communities Wood Products Ltd.
- Operator's Certification Board
- Parks Canada
- Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Saskatchewan Action Foundation for the Environment
- Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
- Saskatchewan Association of Firearm Education (SAFE)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- Saskatchewan Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative Federation Ltd.
- Saskatchewan Dutch Elm Disease Association
- Saskatchewan Eco-Network
- Saskatchewan Environment and Industry Managers Association
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatchewan Forestry Association
- Saskatchewan Forestry Centre
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU)
- Saskatchewan Independent Forest Industries
- Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC)
- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
- Saskatchewan Mining Association
- Saskatchewan Outfitters Association
- Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)
- Saskatchewan Potash Producers' Association
- Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Cottage Owners Association

*(continued)*

- Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association (SRPA)
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Saskatchewan Ski Association
- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Trappers Association
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)
- Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
- Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board
- Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
- Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- SaskEnergy
- SaskFerco Products Inc.
- SaskTip, Inc.
- SaskPower
- Saskatchewan Water Corporation (SaskWater)
- Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (SEPAC)
- Sterling Pulp Chemicals
- TransCanada Trail Council
- Tourism Saskatchewan
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., Saskatchewan Division
- World Wildlife Fund

## Appendix D - Additional Information on Measurement Results Reporting Unavailable Data

**Objective 8: Measurement Result - provincial park visitor's satisfaction.**
Due to the expense of conducting a survey of park visitor satisfaction survey, the department was unable to conduct a survey in 2002. Saskatchewan Environment's negotiations with Saskatchewan Tourism has enabled the department to include questions pertaining to provincial park visitor satisfaction in an ominbus survey conducted in June 2003. A survey conducted in 2000 indicate a "satisfied" response for 80 per cent of park visitors.

**Objective 9: Measurement Result - economic impact from outdoor recreation**

- According to the Federal-Provincial survey on *The Importance of Nature to Canadians*, wildlife-related activities (wildlife hunting and viewing) in Saskatchewan in 2001-02 generated $62,800,000 in economic activity. *The Importance of Nature to Canadians* is no longer produced and we are unable to provide a comparable figure for 2002-03.
- Tourism is the fourth-largest and fastest growing industry in the province. In 2001, tourism in Saskatchewan generated more than $1.3 billion in travel spending and employed about 60,000 people in tourism-specific and tourism-related jobs in Saskatchewan, many of them in rural and northern areas.[3]
- In 1996 participants spent $263,700,000 on outdoor activities (hiking, boating, etc.) in natural areas.[4] Data for 2001-02 and 2002-03 fiscal years is not available.

[2] *Source - Maher, T. 2003. Saskatchewan Environment. Fish and Wildlife Branch. Personal communication."*

[3] *ibid*

[4] *Saskatchewan Environment. 2003. Saskatchewan's 2003 State of the Environment Report - A Provincial Perspective. p. 14.*

[5] *Environment Canada.1996. The Importance of Nature to Canadians: The Economic Significance of Nature Related Activities. p. 30*

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